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F.O. 371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 109

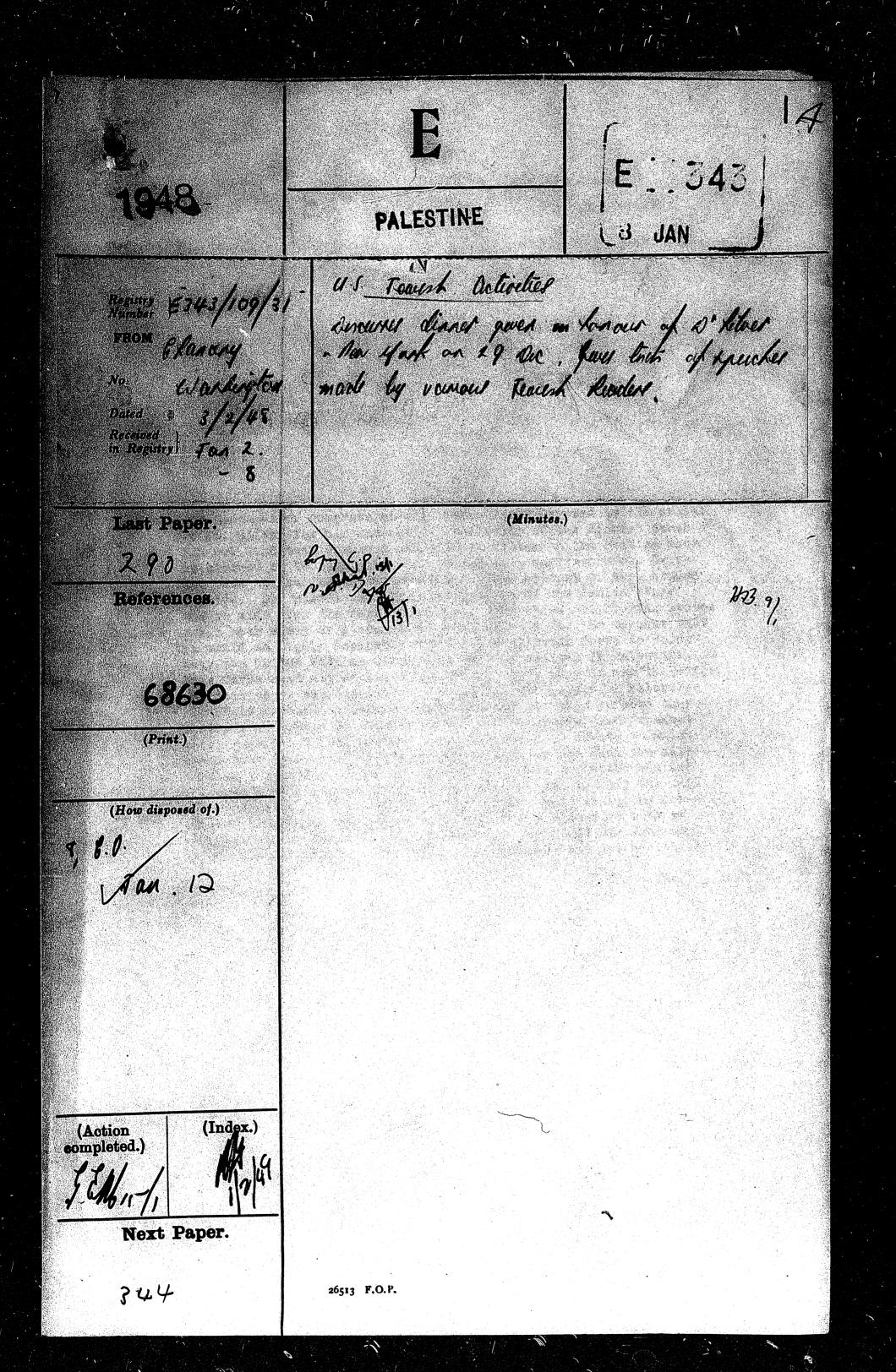
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Ref. 3/2/48

BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

January 2, 1948

Dear Department,

A dinner in honour of Dr. Silver was given in New York on the 29th December, the speakers at which, in addition to Dr. Silver himself, included Dr. Neumann, Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the World Confederation of Zionists and national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, Senators Irving M. Ives (Rep. New York) O'Mahoney (Dem. Wyoming) and the mayor of Tel Aviv, Israel Rokach.

2. The speeches, which were accompanied by the reading of numerous messages of congratulations, were mainly devoted to the praise of Dr. Silver for his successful leadership of the Zionist cause but Dr. Goldstein branched off into an attack on the British whom he claimed to be supplying arms to the Arab aggressors and denying them to the Jewish defenders under the pretext of even handed justice. Dr. Silver said that the problem of the Jewish state was to tide over the next 10 months, after which neighboring states would seek a way of peaceful cooperation with it. He thought that it would be highly desirable for an international force to accompany the United Nations Commission when it arrives in Palestine. This force need not be large but it must know what it was there for. In addition it was imperative that the Jewish people of Palestine should be enabled to defend themselves and for this purpose they needed more arms. He considered that those states, and foremost among them the United States, which had voted to create a Jewish state must feel bound in honour and in duty to see that the citizens of this state in the making were properly protected against the murderous assaults of those who had resolved to defy the will and conscience of the nations of the world. Here again, he considered the United States held the key to the situation both as regards the formation of an international force and the equipment of the Jewish militia. The American Government had not hesitated

Eastern Department, Foreign Office. London, S. W. 1 6863

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to send arms and military missions to other parts of the world to back up its foreign policy and its policy in Palestine should be as aggressive and determined as it was elsewhere. Dr. Silver then criticised those who spread propaganda which aimed at destroying American-Soviet cooperation on Palestine and at preventing the implamantation of the partition decision. If the Jews needed to define their orientation, he said, it was definitely and unmistakebly towards the United Nations.

3. The remarks made by Mr. Rokach wers not reported in the press but he was given a reception by the Mayor of New York in the City Hall on December 29th at which he was greeted as a man who had dedicated himself to the task of enlisting aid for a liberty loving people. Mr. Rokach sold them that the primary purpose of his visit to the United States was to ensure the implementation of plans mapped out by the Jewish Mational Fund of America which would make possible a sound. agricultural and urban development within the Jewish state and would secure its frontiers and safeguard its people. He then referred to the question of defence and said that as a descendant of a family which had lived in Palestine for more than a 100 years, and had maintained most friendly relations with their Arab neighbours, he could say that Palestine Jewry was most reluctant to have a conflict with the Arabs. Important as these problems of defence were; he concluded, they did not eclipse the imperative necessity for uninterrupted immlgration of Jews into Palestine and for continuous land purchases and development.

- 4. According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, from which this account of Mr. Rokach's remarks were taken, the proceedings concluded with the singing of Hatikvah by the police department chorus.
- 5. We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever.

CHANCERY

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TRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE RODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC ORD OFFICE, LONDON

No 140

British Legation Quite 26th December, 1947.

Sir,

617

I have the honour to report that the Zionist Federation of Ecuador and the Pro-Palestine Committee of Quito held two functions celebrating the decision of the United Nations to set up an independent Jewish State in Palestine. The functions were attended by the Vice-President of the Republic Senor Rafael Bustamente, other representatives of the Ecuadorean Government and members of the Diplomatic Corps including the Guatemalan Minister and the Counsellor of the United States Embassy. It is needless to say that I was not invited.

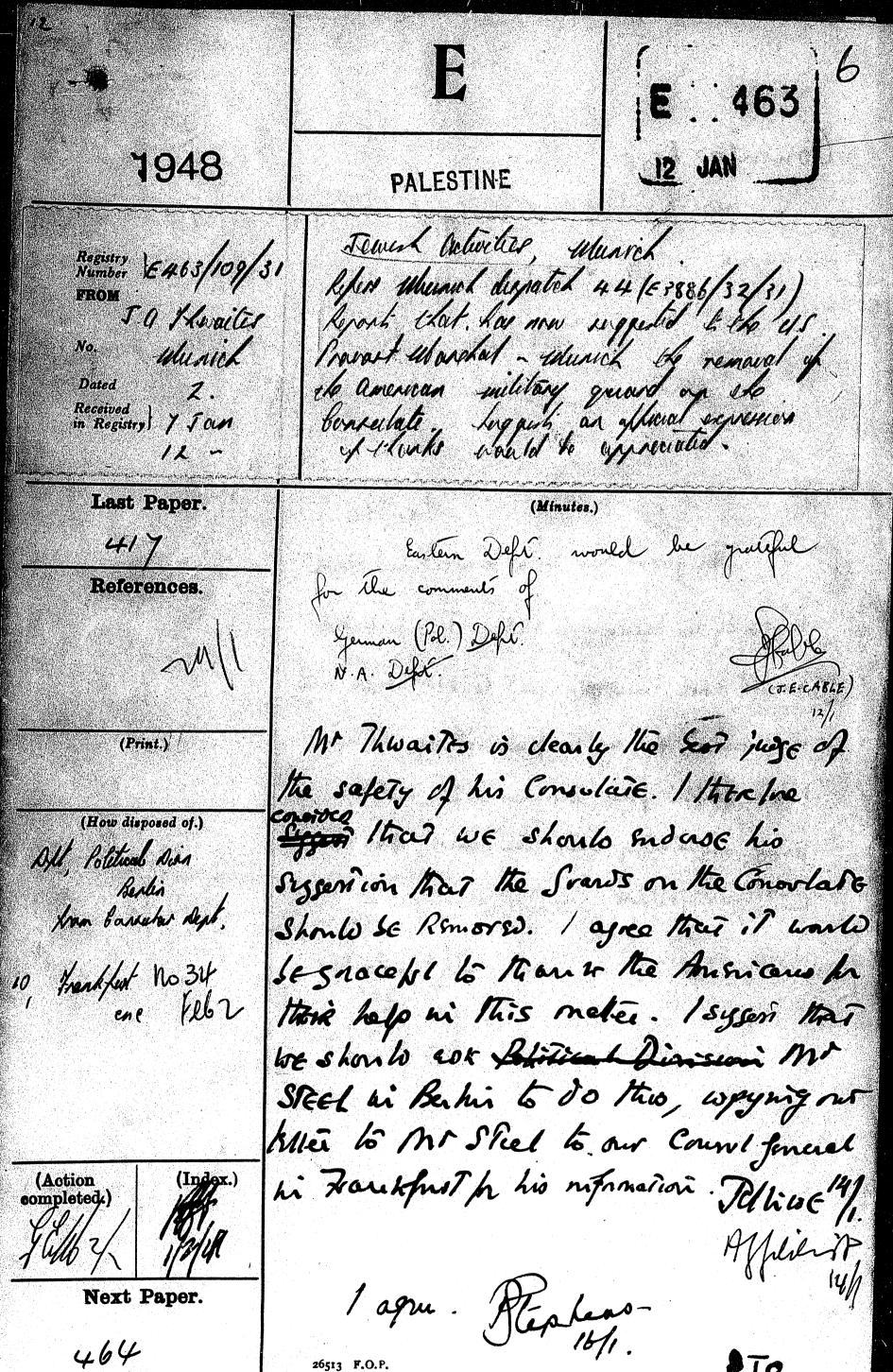
- 2. Tributes were paid to the Ecuadorean Government and to the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Trujillo, in particular for having caused Ecuador to be associated with the majority decision. Señor Benno Weiser, the local representative of the Jewish Agency, who as long as he was employed by the Information Department of this Legation was very pro-British but who subsequently went to the other extreme, asked his audience not to be influenced by the threat of a holy war in Palestine. The Jews were not afraid of the Arabs and all they wanted was that the British should get out of Palestine at once. He ended his address with a picture of the first Ambassador of the Jewish State presenting his credentials in Quito.
- 3. The Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Bustamente, who was the first president of the Pro-Palestine Committee briefly acknowledged the tributes referring to the justice of Zionist aspirations. Dr. Pedro Nuñez, Chairman of the Anglo-Ecuadorean Institute expressed his satisfaction that Ecuador had been able to exercise a decisive vote in a decision of transcendental historical importance which would inspire Ecuadoreans to struggle always for just and noble causes. One speaker was generous enough to remind his audience that it was Lord Balfour who had made possible the beginning of the return of the Jews to the land of their forefathers.
- 4. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Brusawan

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office,
London, S. W. 1.

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The quart has been removed and there is really no Jecusian to take. This despotet should have been addressed to Mr. Steel and it remains for us to pass it on to him. I have doubted from Consular Defit, but the peter might stay with the others, if you have no objection.

Hillandridge 26/1 JB Jan 27



ES. No. 2

British Consulate,
MUNICH.

7th January, 1947.

E 463

Sir,

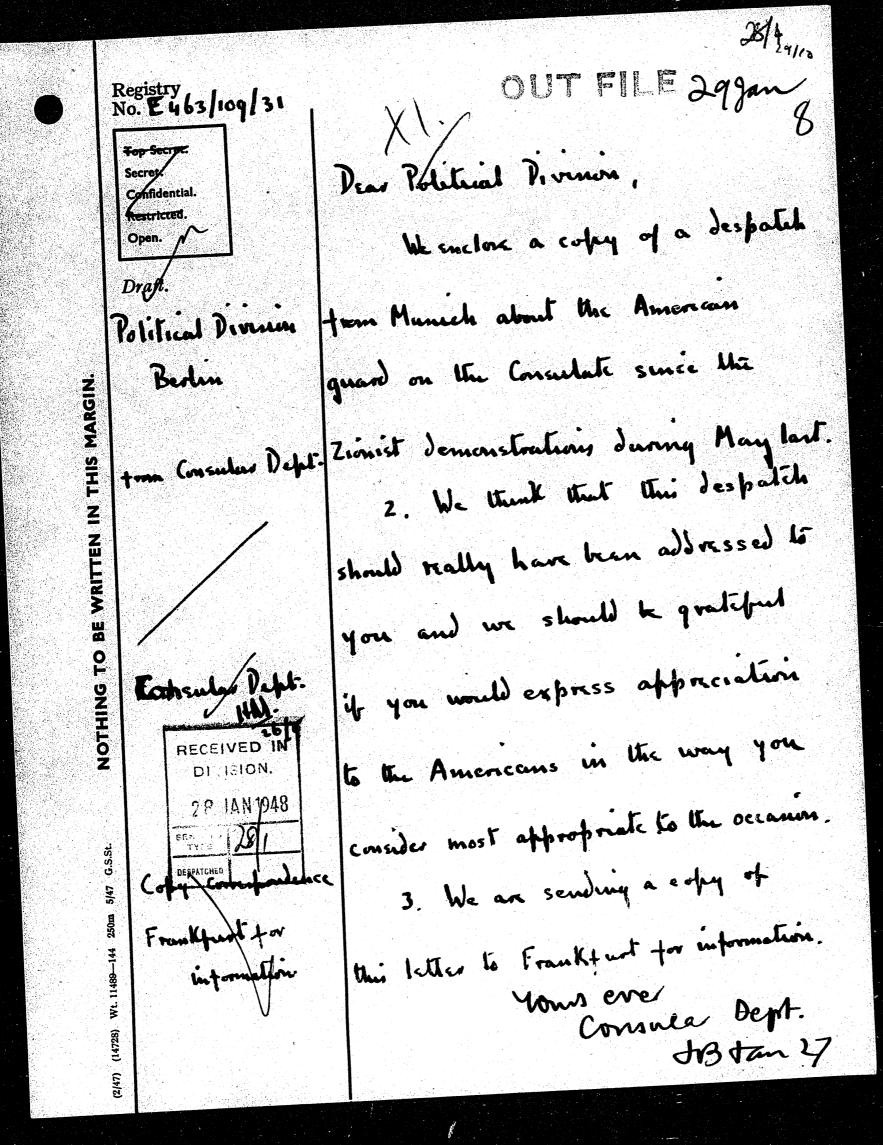
With reference to my Des.No.44 of 5th AN May, 1947, concerning Zionist demonstrations, I have the honour to report that I have now suggested to the United States Provost Marshal in Munich the removal of the American military guard on this Consulate.

2. The guard has now been maintained for a matter of ten months. In view of the trouble taken and the military personnel employed, I venture to suggest that an official expression of thanks would be appreciated. This might perhaps be transmitted through the Political Division to General Clay or alternatively through H.M.Consul-General in Frankfurt to General Huebner.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient, humble servant,

H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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OUT FILE 9

PORKIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29th January, 1948.

(E 468/109/81)

Dear Political Division,

We emplose a copy of a despetch from Munich shout the United States guard on the Consulate since the Zioniat demonstrations during May last.

2. We think that this despatch should really have been addressed to you and we should be grateful if you would express appreciation to the Americans in the way you consider most appropriate to the occasion.

5. We are sending a copy of this letter to Frankfurt for information,

Yours ever.

CONSULAR DEPARTMENT.

Political Division, N.Q. J. G. G., (B.E.), Berlin.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

Enler K /611

Cypher (O.T.P.)

1 4 JAN 1948

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO 8. OF S., COLONIES.

D.12th January, 1948. R.12th * 14.05 hrs.

No. 67 Top Secret.

Your telegram No. 28.

Jewish terrorists at Jibuti.

Yesternitsky and Zabrovsky are among the most fenatical terrorist leaders and it is considered that imprisonment or detention is the only satisfactory means of preventing them from planning and carrying out further outrages. Their departure from Jibuti for any destination would be a matter of departure from Jibuti for any destination would be a matter of grave concern to me, since once at large they would, I am sure; quickly make their way to a place from which they could organise further terrorist activities. If, therefore, refoulement is out of the question, I hope it will at least be possible to persuade the Prench authorities to continue holding these men at Jibuti until the British forces are withdrawn from Palesting.

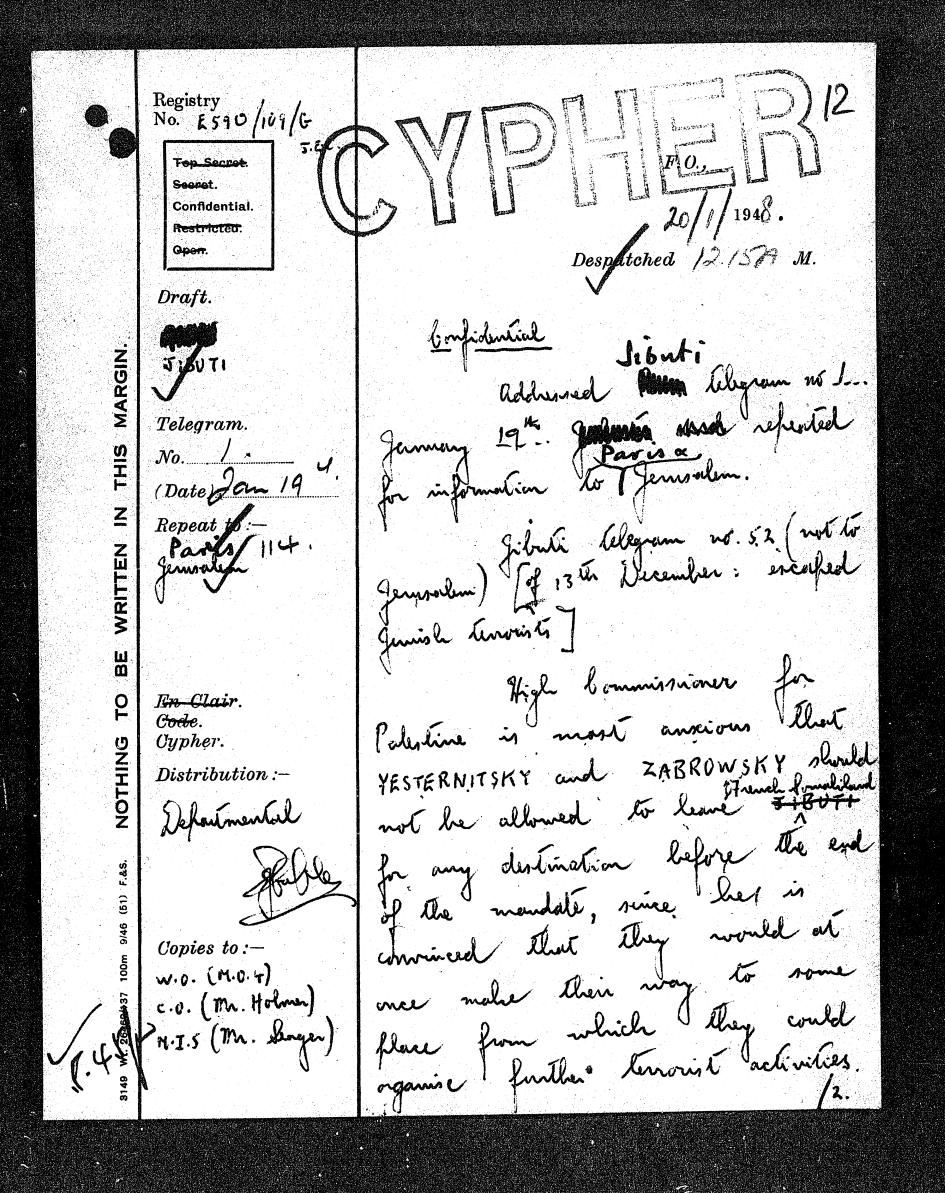
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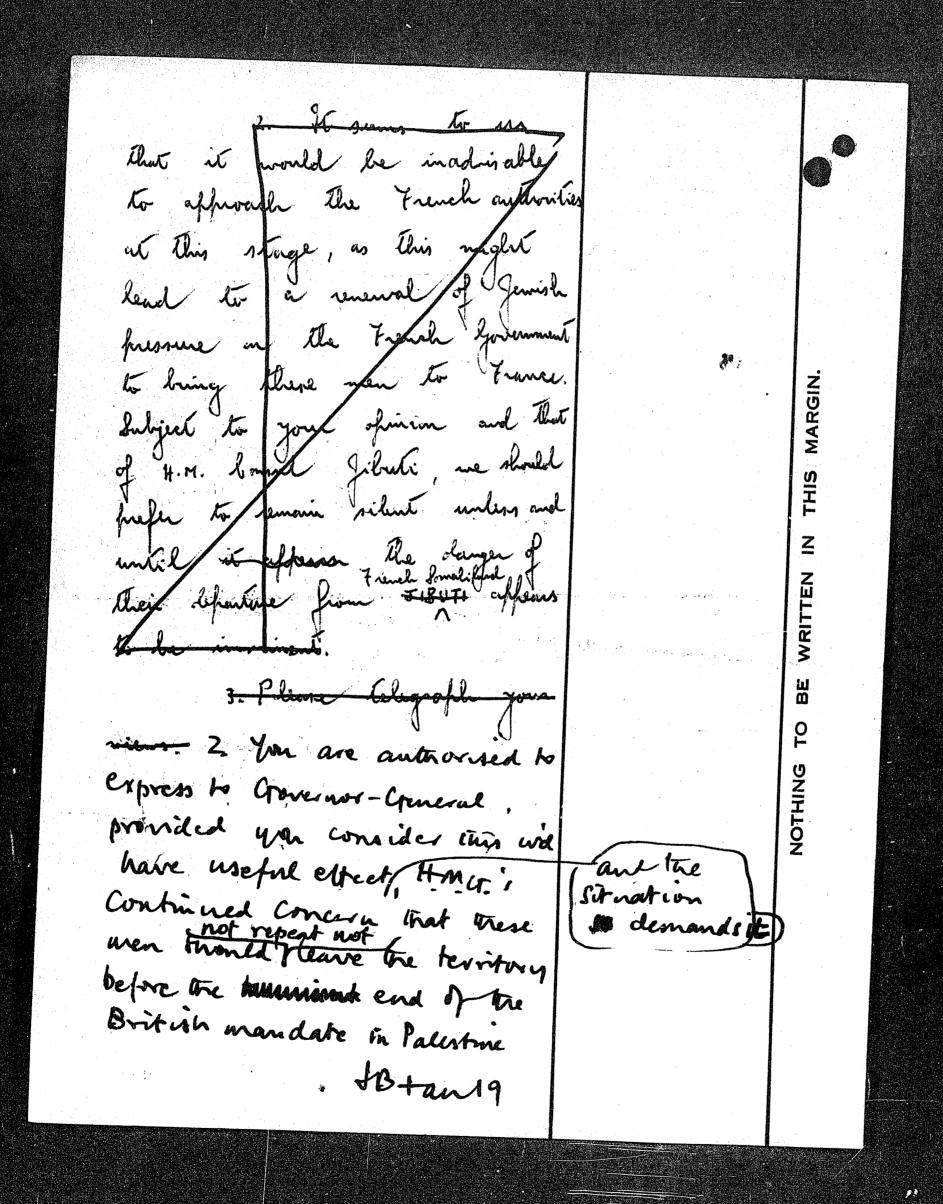
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Mr. Cable Mr. Seager

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Cypher/OTP E 590/109/G Confidential

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO JIBUTI

No.1 D.12.15 a.m. 20th January, 1948

Repeated to Paris No. 114 and Jerusalem.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Jibuti telegram No.1 January 19th , repeated for information to Paris and Jerusalem.

Jibuti telegram No. 52 (not to Jerusalem) [of 18th December: escaped Jewish terrorists].

High Commissioner for Palestine is most anxious that Yesternitsky and Zabrowsky should not be allowed to leave French Samaliland for any destination before the end of the mandate, since he is convinced that they would at once make their way to some place from which they could organise further terrorist activities.

2. You are authorised to express to Governor-General, provided you consider this would have useful effect and the situation demands it. His Majesty's Government's continued concern that these men should not (repeat not) leave the territory before the end of the British mandate in Palestine.

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E. 77.

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8. D. C.

9th January 1948

Ref: 413/3/48

Dear Department,

We enclose a copy of a telegram which we have received from the American Zionist Emergency Council, and of the reply which has been sent.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

te -

Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

68630

H - NOT TO B

12th January 1948

/ AU

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram about Palestine which I shall transmit to my Government.

I feel sure that upon reflection you will not be surprised when I tell you that I cannot accept the implication in your remarks that the Palestine administration has been favouring the Arabs at the expense of the Jove, or the statement that they are tolerating and actually al-atting terrevist attacke by areb beads. It is not surprising that in some taxes Jove have been prevented from taking the law into their own hands, as this can only increase the confusion, but you make no mention of the fact that large quantities of arms have also been seized from arabs or that a number of Arabs have been arrested for the seme reason. You must remarkly how that there are not 109,000 troops available for mosping free the road from formalies to the semat. This road is now reasonably open and it covered by mobile patients. There is also a between the semat. This road is now reasonably open and it covered by mobile patients. There is also a between the cont. This road is now reasonably open and it covered by mobile patients. There is also a between the cont. The live amount to 100,000 in all, are supaged in administrative drives and they are accepter now making the moscowary drive accepter it would rays probably be moscowary to put the whole country under mavial law and it is not. I propose, suggested that this should be counced to the plans for withdrawal.

Israel Goldstein, Esq.,
Anting Chairman,
American Lionist Emergency Council,
New York, N.Y.

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police have been withdrawn from the Tel Lyiv Petah Tikyah area and they have been replaced by a fewtah sivil guard. In Jerusales, Ealis and lisewhere the fewich Agency has, at the suggestion of the Administration, appointed liaison officers with the police. It has been made clear to the fewich Agency that the Hagamah will not be obstructed to long as it sets in a purely defensive role. That is seem to be true that the Arebs were the first to attack, it would have been a greater contribution to the restoration of order if the Hagamah - and other groups - had in fast confined themselves to defende. They have not done so and as a rosult of indiscriminate reprisals in certain cases they must been a considerable share of the blame for the continuance of discover. Incidents such as that at the semiramis Hotel cannot set render more difficult the task of the Administration in restraining Arab attacks and bringing them to an end

In spile of the desiring serious serious has CALVES SE LE COLLE SELECT DUS DUS EUR DUS ESTABLES STATE MENTAL AND STATE OF THE S woulded both committees would by now have been THE DOUBLE COMMENTS WARE - LONG WILLIAM THE CALL OF LAW WILLIAM Seem the modes regulation in the Prince Ballons as THE I AM THAT WALKE HER DOT - TO EXCENTED THE TRANSPORTED THE IN A REPUBLICAN WILLIAM WAR DONNER TO be WATY CLEANLY the administration is bring to turing to responsibilities, but the co-operation which it is reserving from the two commanities in Pelestine has fallen for short of what it has the right be expect. Although I understand the amilety which you and all who are concerned about the future of Palestine feel concerning the present situation

/and

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and while I have no wish to condone Arab attacks or to underestimate the suffering which they have caused. I do believe that consideration must be siven to the difficulties which face the Administration in Falcetine. The termination of the Mandate and the withdrawal of treeps would present very considerable problems even if absolute quiet prevailed, and every diversion of the identification's efforts caused by the present disturbance manner but hinder the rapid completion of its base.

Yours

INVERCHAPEL

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XJ NEW YORK NY 7 151P

HIS EXCELLENCY BRITISH AMBASSADOR WASH DC ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED TO EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND SHOCK AT BEHAVIOR OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN PALESTINE. HAVING INSISTED ON SOLE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE HOLY LAND AND ON RETENTION OF SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE, GREAT BRITAIN HAS ADOPTED A STAND OF QUASI NEUTRALITY TOWARDS RIOTS AND DISORDERS NOW TAKING PLACE. WE SAY "QUASI NEUTRALITY" BECAUSE WE ARE IN POSSESSION OF TELLING FACTS REBARDING CASES WHERE BRITISH MILITARY AND POLICE, WHILE SUPPRESSING, DISARMING, AND IMPRISONING JEWISH DEFENCE FORCES, TO TOLERATE AND ACTUALLY ABET TERRORIST ATTACKS OF ARAB BANDS. ARMS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED FROM JEWISH DEFENDERS BY BRITISH FORCES HAVE BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND IN POSSESSION OF ARAB AGGRESSORS. HUNDRED THOUSAND TROOPS ARE ALLEGEDLY INCAPABLE OF KEEPING FREE THE FORTY MILE HIGHWAY BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND THE COAST. THE JEWISH QUARTER OF THE CITY OF SAFAD IS UNDER BLOCKADE OF ARAB BANDS UNMOLESTED BY BRITISH POLICE. WHILE HUNTING FOR JEWISH REFUGEES WHOSE ENTRY BRITAIN BARRED NOTWITHSTANDING UN RECOMMENDATION, ARMED ARAB BANDITS FROM SYRIA ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER PALESTINE. BLOCKADE OF SHORT ROAD CONNECTING THE CENTER OF JERUSALEM WITH THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND HADASSAH HOSPITAL IS PERMITTED. THIS ISOLATING PRINCIPAL CULTURAL AND MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PALESTINE. MOST SHOCKING, THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM WITH HOLY PLACES OF THREE RELIGIONS HAS BEEN YELLDED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES TO ARABS BLOCKADING THE AREA AND THREATENING THE MASSACRE OF 1800 JEWS LIVING THERE, THIS IS NOT EVEN ABDICATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS FOR, WHILE REMAINING INACTIVE IN THE FACE OF ARAB AGGRESSION, LARGE BRITISH FORCES BUSILY PREVENT THE BESIEGED JEWISH POPUDATION

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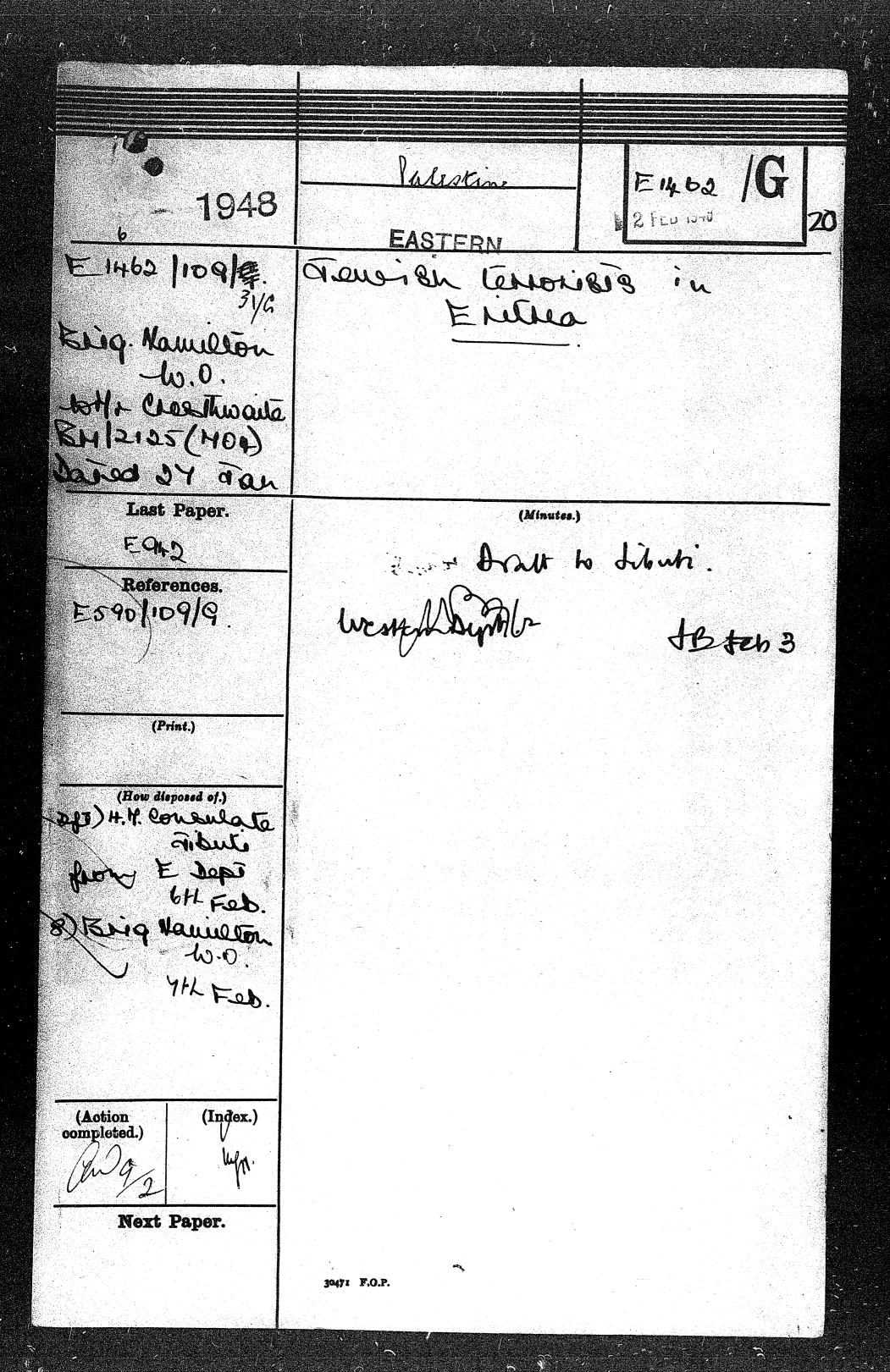
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FROM EFFECTIVELY AND OPENLY DEFENDING ITSELF. HAVING
DECLARED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF UNITED NATIONS VERDICT, BRITAIN
NOW HELPS THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THIS VERDICT, WHO
WERE FIRST TO ATTACK, AND AGAINST WHOM JEWS MUST DEFEND
THEMSELVES. WE WISH TO REGISTER OUR EMPHATIC PROTEST
AGAINST THIS ATTITUDE AND OUR CONVICTION THAT IN THE CIRCUMASTANCES GREAT BRITAIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING DISORDERS
IN THE HOLY LAND AND FOR ANY LOSS OF LIFE OF THE JEWISH
POPULATION IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF
PALESTINE BETWEEN THE PRESENT TIME AND THE TRANSFER OF
AUTHORITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WE PLEDGE OURSELVES NOT
ONLY TO GIVE EVERY ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE JEWRY, BUT ALSO
TO FIGHT BRITISH CONNIVANCE WITH ARAB AGGRESSORS IN
PALESTINE, IN ALL JUSTICE YOUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD EITHER
LEAVE PALESTINE FORTHWITH OR DECENTLY FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN ACTING CHAIRMAN

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2 FE3 1948
From: - Brigadier JRC Hamilton, DSO.,
THE WAR OFFICE.

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

27 January, 1948

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear astronite

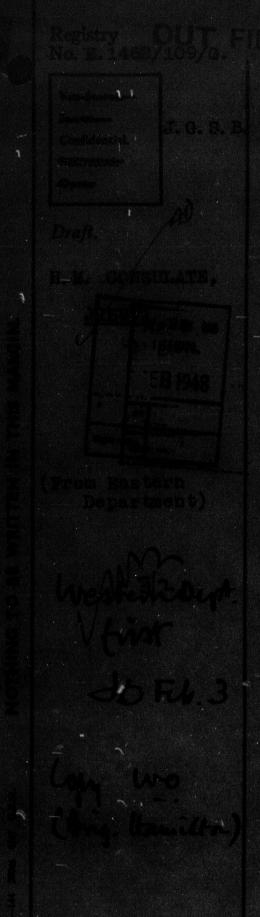
, Please refer to Foreign Office telegram to Jibuti No. 1. 590/a9 (G

I feel that His Majesty's Government should not only make every effort to prevent the departure of Yesternitsky and Zabrowsky from French Somaliland until the relinquishment of the Mandate, but also until the final evacuation of British troops from Palestine. Our forces, with their steadily decreasing numbers, will inevitably be vulnerable during the final stages of the evacuation, and if anything can be done to prevent fánatical terrorists like these men from entering Palestine whilst our troops are still there I feel we should certainly do it.

J. e. Ham. Ita.

P.M. Crosthwaite, Esq., Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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6 EB 1948 COMMIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1. 25

*** 15. 3. Ch. February, 1948.

Them you for your telegram No. 1 of
January Stat informing us that you had made
representations to the Governor shout the
two Jewish terrorist); and that he had
agreed that these men should be held in
Fritrea until the end of the British Mandet
in Palestine.

It is his Majesty's deverment's interest that these men issould be kept sway from Palestine not only until the end of the Mandate (May 15th, as at present planted), but until August int (the Final dase for the Withdrawal of Gritish Forces). Our Forces, with their steadily decreasing numbers, will inevitably be vulnerable during the final atages of the swaping, and it is important that fanatical terrorists should be provented from entering Palestine while our troops are still there.

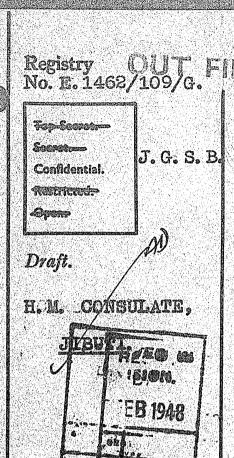
3. We regret that this point was not taken account of in our telegram of

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PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE Reference:
1 2 3 4 5 6 FO 371 68630 REPR
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Department)

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(From Eastern

Copy wo Cong. Hamilton Dear Consulate;

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1. Q. Oh. February, 1948.

Thank you for your telegram No.1 of
January 21st informing us that you had made
representations to the Governor about the
two Jewish terrorists, and that he had
agreed that these men should be held in
Eritrea until the end of the British Mandate
in Palestine.

- 2. It has been pointed out to us that it is His Majesty's Government's interest that these men should be kept away from Palestine not only until the end of the Mandate (May 15th, as at present planned), but until August 1st (the final date for the withdrawal of British Forces). Our Forces, with their steadily decreasing numbers, will inevitably be vulnerable during the final stages of the evacuation, and it is important that fanatical terrorists should be prevented from entering Palestine while our troops are still there.
- 3. We regret that this point was not taken account of in our telegram of instructions/

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instructions, but we hope that you may be able to achieve the desired result. We leave it to your discretion as to whether any further formal representations are required, in view of the favourable anwer returned by the Governor to our previous request.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

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FICE, LONDON

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.

6th February, 1948.

(E 1462/109/G)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Consulate,

Thank you for your telegram No.1 of the 21st January informing us that you had made representations to the Governor about the two Jewish terrorists, and that he had agreed that these men should be held in Eritres until the end of the British Mandate in Palestine.

2. It has been pointed out to us that it is His Majesty's Government's interest that these men should be kept sway from Palestins not only until the end of the Mandate (15th May, as at present planned), but until 1st August (the final date for the withdrawal of British Porces). Our Forces, with their steadily decreasing numbers, will inevitably be vulnerable during the final stages of the evacuation, and it is important that fanatical terrorists should be prevented from entering Palestine while our troops are still there.

5. We regret that this point was not taken account of in our telegram of instructions, but we hope that you may be able to achieve the desired result. We leave it to your discretion as to whether any further formal representations are required, in view of the favourable answer returned by the Governor to our previous request.

Yours ever,

RASTERN DEPARTMENT.

British Consulate.

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RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

5th February 1948

Ref: 3/62/48

11 FEB 1948

Dear Department,

We enclose herein copies of correspondence exchanged with the Political Action Committee for Palestine about Jewish internees in Palestine and Kenya. We do not propose to reply to the second letter from this organization, but will be glad to know whether we are right in assuming that the detainees will be released upon the termination of the Mandate.

Yours ever,

Chancery

Eastern Department, Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

68630

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

26

January 29, 1948

Mr. T.E. Bromley First Secretary British Embassy Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your note of January 22nd, acknowledging my letter to Lord Inverchapel of January 20th.

I should appreciate a more detailed reply relaying the intention of your Government.

May I look forward to hearing from you?

Very truly yours,

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE INC.

Rabbi Baruch Korff Co-Chairman

PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE D PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH-SSION OF THE PUBLIC British Embassy Washington, D.C. 22nd January 1948

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by Lord Inverchapel to acknowledge your letter of January 20th about Jewish internees in Palestine and Kenya.

Yours faithfully,

T.E. Bromley First Secretary

Rabbi Baruch Korff,
Political Action Committee
for Palestine, Inc.,
Suite 208, 104 W. 70th St.,
New York 23, N.Y.

17

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE INC.

Suite 208; 104 W. 70th St. New York 23, N.Y.

January 20, 1948

His Excellency, The British Ambassador British Embassy Washington, D.C.

Excellency:

Without referring to the controversy involving the British Occupation Forces in Palestine and their "neutrality" in the present undeclared war of the Arabs, the Political Action Committee for Palestine deems it its duty to raise the question of Jewish internees held by His Majesty's military in Palestine and Kenya, against whom charges were never filed.

According to our records the number exceeds twelve hundred such internees, some of whom have been in captivity as long as five years without the benefit of a hearing or any charges ever being brought against them.

In view of the United Nations decision and in view of the contemplated British withdrawal from Palestine it is indefensible that at this crucial hour in the life of Palestine Jewry when every man is needed to strengthen the defense of his country, His Majesty's administration in Palestine should detain such a large number of ablebodied men.

To avoid further disputes on the subject we choose not to discuss the flagrant violation of civil liberties which was perpetrated with the arrest and detention of innocent men. We feel, however, that there is no justification, at this time, even from an Englishman's point of view, in continuing their imprisonment.

We should appreciate your acknowledgement of this letter and your intentions on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE INC.

(Signed) BARUCH KORFF

Rabbi Baruch Korff

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PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE Reference:
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THE CHANCERY,
WASHINGTON.

FROM EASTERN
DEPARTMENT.

ander reply M. Hept

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1) FEB 1948

BENT TO 191V

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DESPATCHED 23/2

19/10 Dear Chancery, 19/10

Your letter No. 3/62/48 of
5th February enclosing an exchange of
correspondence with the Political Action
Committee for Palestine about Jewish internees
in Palestine and Kenya.

active consideration but it is unlikely that the detainees will be released upon the termination of the Mandate. Our forces will have their work cut out completing military withdrawal by 1st August and it would be undesirable to increase their difficulties by releasing the terrorists who form the bulk of these detainees.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

18/2

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(E 1960/109/51)

19th February, 1948.

Dear Chancery,

Your letter No. 5/68/48 of the 5th February enclosing an exchange of correspondence with the Political Action Committee for Palestine about Jewish internees in Palestine and Kenya.

This question is at present under active consideration but it is unlikely that the detainees will be released upon the termination of the Mandate. Our forces will have their work out out completing military withdrawal by the let August and it would be undesirable to increase their difficulties by releasing the terrorists who form the bulk of these detainees.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT 2053
BRITISH-UNITED STATES ZONE FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE

120/2

5th February, 1948.

Dear Department.

We have recently been informed from confidential sources that a certain Dr. Umberto Nahon, described as a representative of the Provisional Jewish Government at Palestine, arrived in Trieste on February 2nd. Dr. Nahon was born at Leghern on 4th October, 1905 and holds a Palestine passport No. C.290383, issued at Jerusalem on 23rd October, 1947.

On the 3rd February Dr. Rahon received representatives of the press at the Excelsior Hotel and gave a short and innocuous speech on Palestine and Zionism and defined his mission as one of propaganda to put the Jewish point of view before Europe. He stated that he had just come from Palestine, would stay in Italy for a further ten days and will then go to Morocco to get into touch with Jews there and other parts of N. Africa.

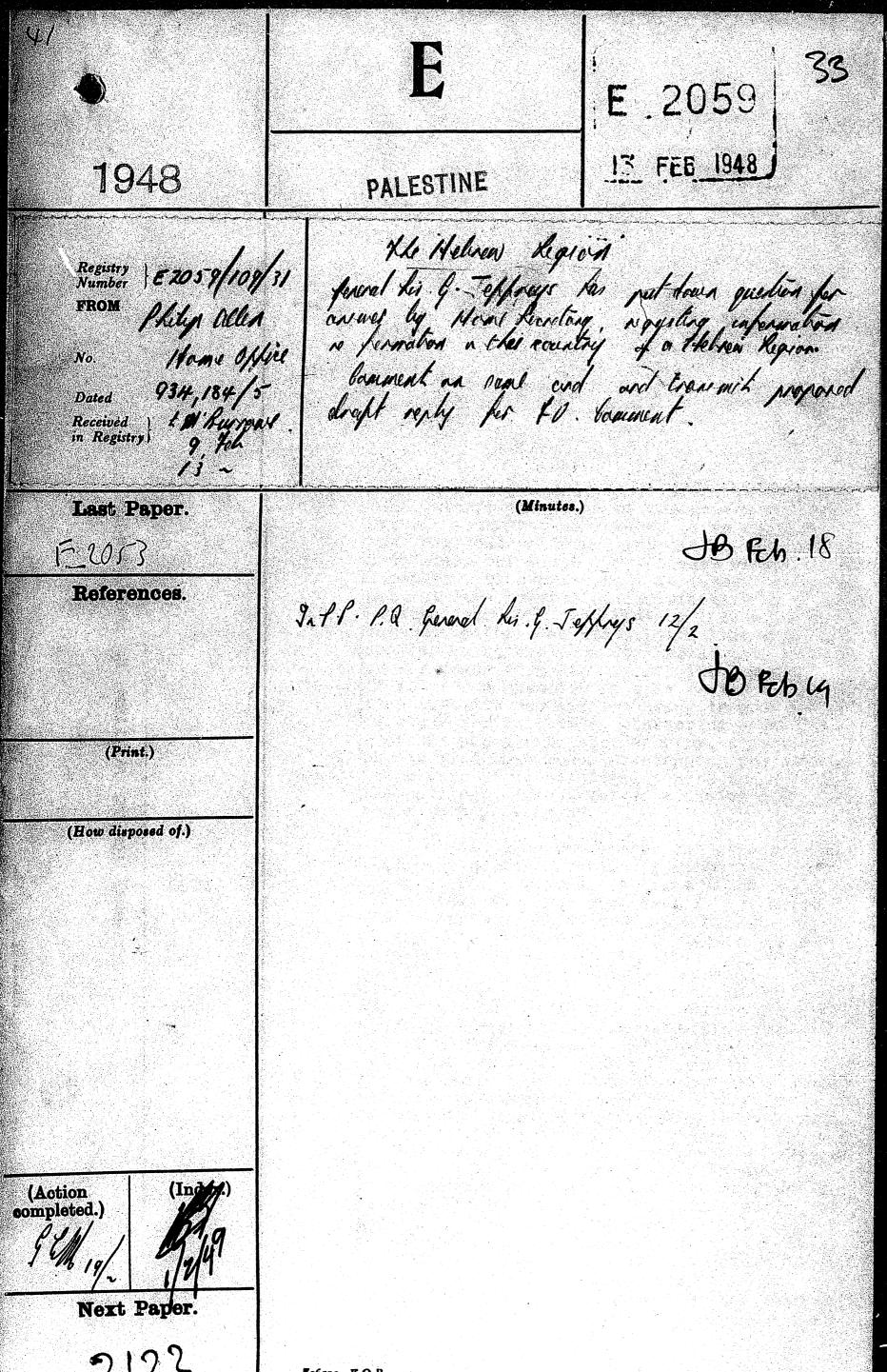
Although Dr. Nahon had very little to say on the subject of illegal immigration into Palestine, he did mention that there were thousands of Jews who had been waiting for years to go there and still the Zionists were unable to get them in; even after May, 1948, there would still be delays. He stated that he must explain the position to the waiting Jews.

The journalists who attended the meeting were not profoundly interested nor well informed on Palestine questions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rome.

Yours ever.

Southern Department, Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.



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[26513 F.O.P.

The second note for supplementaries is all right, I think, but purely as a matter of drafting it would perhaps be better if the words "under the Foreign Enligtment Act" came immediately after the words "no offence".

What does make me rather unhappy though is the proposed reply to the last part of the question. If the proposed reply is read in conjunction with the question it will be seen that the effect of it is that we shall be saying that no steps will be taken to prevent the members of the Hebrew Legion from embarking from this country for Palestine. Surely we cannot quite mean that in the sense in which it will almost certainly be taken. We have for months past been begging and imploring foreign governments to take every possible step to prevent organised attempts to enter Palestine illegally, to refuse passports and visas for this purpose, and to prevent ships sailing by any means, administrative or otherwise, within the power of the government concerned. Can we, therefore, quite declare publicly that we do not propose to take any such steps ourselves, if the case should arise? I realise, of course, that we have no power to prevent Jews, travelling individually on a valid British passport, from leaving this country, ostensibly for some destination like France, and employing ordinary commercial rail and sea or air means of transport for the purpose. But if it were a question of some Jewish organisation here, its members not being in possession of visas for Palestine, chartering a boat for a direct passage to that country, surely we should find some means of stopping it; even if there were no direct legal powers to prohibit the sailing, administrative means of doing so would surely be found.

I would therefore prefer the answer to the last part of the question to be on different lines. For instance, it might be to the effect that the Home Secretary is not aware, with reference to the last part of the question, of any attempt to organise illegal entry into Palestine from this country, but that the position will, of course, be watched. Alternatively, he might say that, if the questioner has in mind the organised attempts which have been made from certain countries in Europe to effect illegal immigration into Palestine, he is not aware of any similar If a supplementary were asking attempt here. whether any steps would be taken to prevent the members of the organisation from leaving this country for Palestine by ordinary travel routes, the answer might then be that we have no power to prevent individual subjects from leaving this country, but they would have no right to enter Palestine without a Palestine entry visa, and could, therefore, only enter that country by illegal methods, organised from some place outside the U.K. I am not altogether happy about the precise wording even of my own suggestions, and it is possible that someone else may be able to think of a better way of

putting/

MARGIN

Minutes.

putting it, but at any rate those seem to me to be more the lines on which the matter should be put.

(G.G. Fitzmaurice) 10th February, 1948.

I have spoken & Mr Alla who will armend the survey as in Mr Ast maunic's answer as in Mr Ast maunic's first inggestion. No further reply is required.

BARB

11: 2—

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Our Ref......934;184/5.

Your Ref..... Annedesti

HOME OFFICE. WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

9th February, 1948. E_2059

Dear Burrows.

General Sir George Jeffreys has Rut room a Glegston for answer by the Home Secretary on Tabraday, in the following terms:-

> " To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information he has about the formation in this country of a Hebrew Legion; in particular by whom it is being raised; and what steps will be taken to prevent its members from embarking from this country for Palestine.

The Rebrew Legion is apparently the same body as the Jawish Legion which was established in February 1947 and changed its name last December. It issues a paper called "The Legionaire" and holds weekly meetings in Hyde Park, and has recently been responsible for putting up some posters. The principal founders are Semuel Weiser and George De Lange, but it seems undestrable to give them publicity by referring to them by name in reply to the Question. The body is an extremist organisation which as far as we know has not very much influence in the Jewish community in this country. Sir George Jeffreys probably thinks that, in view of the title, it is a body comparable with the Arab Legion, but this is not so.

As regards the last part of the Question, we cannot say that any restrictions are put on British subjects leaving this country, but I gather from the Colonial Office that there are restrictions on entry into Palestine.

/ Could

B.A.B. Burrows, Esq. Foreign Office.

Could you let be know as soon as possible whether you have any comments on a draft reply in the following terms:-

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1 2 FEB 1948
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by a body in this country calling itself the Hebrew Legion which criticise the British administration in Palestine and call upon Jews to join with the less for the salvation of the Jewish state. The answer to the last part of the Question is "None, Sir", but entry into Palestine is permitted only to those who hold a visa authorised by the Government of Palestine."

Notes for Supplementaries.

- 1) The name of this organisation is misleading. It does not purport to be a potential fighting force.
- 2) No offence is at present committed by a British subject under the Foreign Enlistment Act who indicates that he might be prepared to fight in the event of certain developments in Palestine.
- 3) This body is a small extremist organisation with little influence in the Jewish community in the U.K.

Yours sincerely,

Ruly allen

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE Reference:- 371 / 68630

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HEBREW LEGION

II. General Sir George Jeffreys asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has about the formation in this country of a Hebrew Legion; in particular by whom it is being raised; and what steps will be taken to prevent its members from embarking from this country for Palestine.

Mr. Ede: I have seen posters and literature issued by a body in this country calling itself the Hebrew Legion, which criticises the British administration in Palestine and calls upon Jews to become members for the salvation of the Jewish state. As regards the last part of the Question, I am not aware of any attempt to organise illegal entry into Palestine from this country.

Sir G. Jeffreys: Will the Home Secretary state whether it is lawful to use a force—because, presumably it is a force—for operations in a country which is being administered by the British, or, alternatively, if it is the case that it is being administered by the United Nations, is it not contrary to the Foreign Enlistment Act?

Mr. Ede: No, Sir. I am informed, as the result of an investigation, that this body is not a force.

Mr. E. P. Smith: Is it likely that any sensible Hebrew would wish to transfer from austerity to purgatory?

Mr. H. Hynd: Would my right hon. Friend apply the Foreign Enlistment Act to volunteers from either side in Palestine?

Mr. Ede: The question of the application of the Foreign Enlistment Act has not arisen. If there are infringements of the Act, it will be enforced. 12 FEB 1948

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1 4 FEB 1949

SENT TO DEPT.

EASTERN.

Parliamentary Question

U.

*119. General Sir George Jeffreys,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information he has about the formation in this country of a Hebrew Legion; in particular by whom it is being raised; and what steps will be taken to prevent its members from embarking from this country for Palestine. [Thursday 12th February:]

Peterfice.

ANBWERED 12 FEB 1948

REPLY ATTACHED.

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QUESTION.

HEBREW LEGION

the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has about the formation in this country of a Hebrew Legion; in particular by whom it is being raised; and what steps will be taken to prevent its members from embarking from this country for Palestine.

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12 FEB 1948

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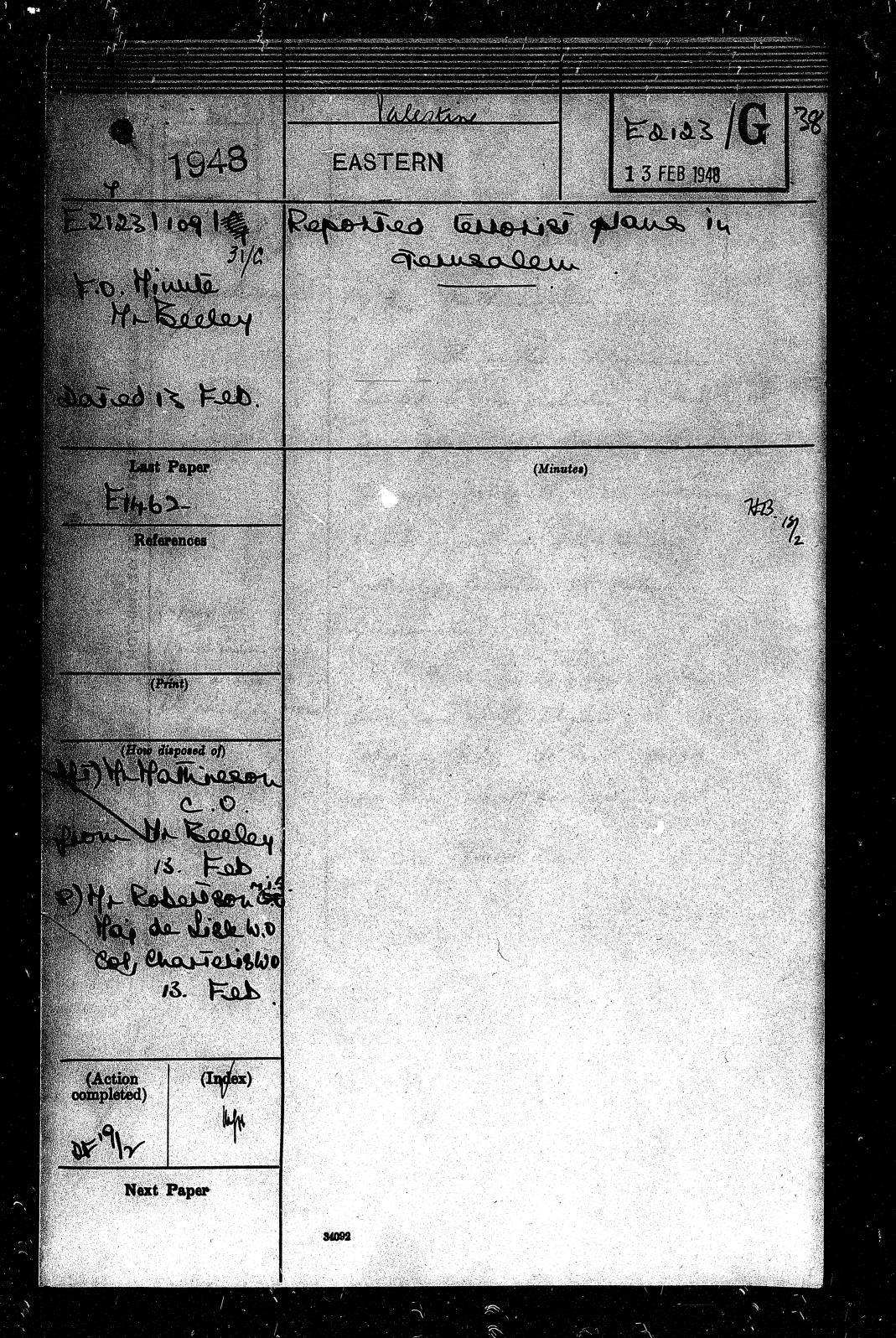
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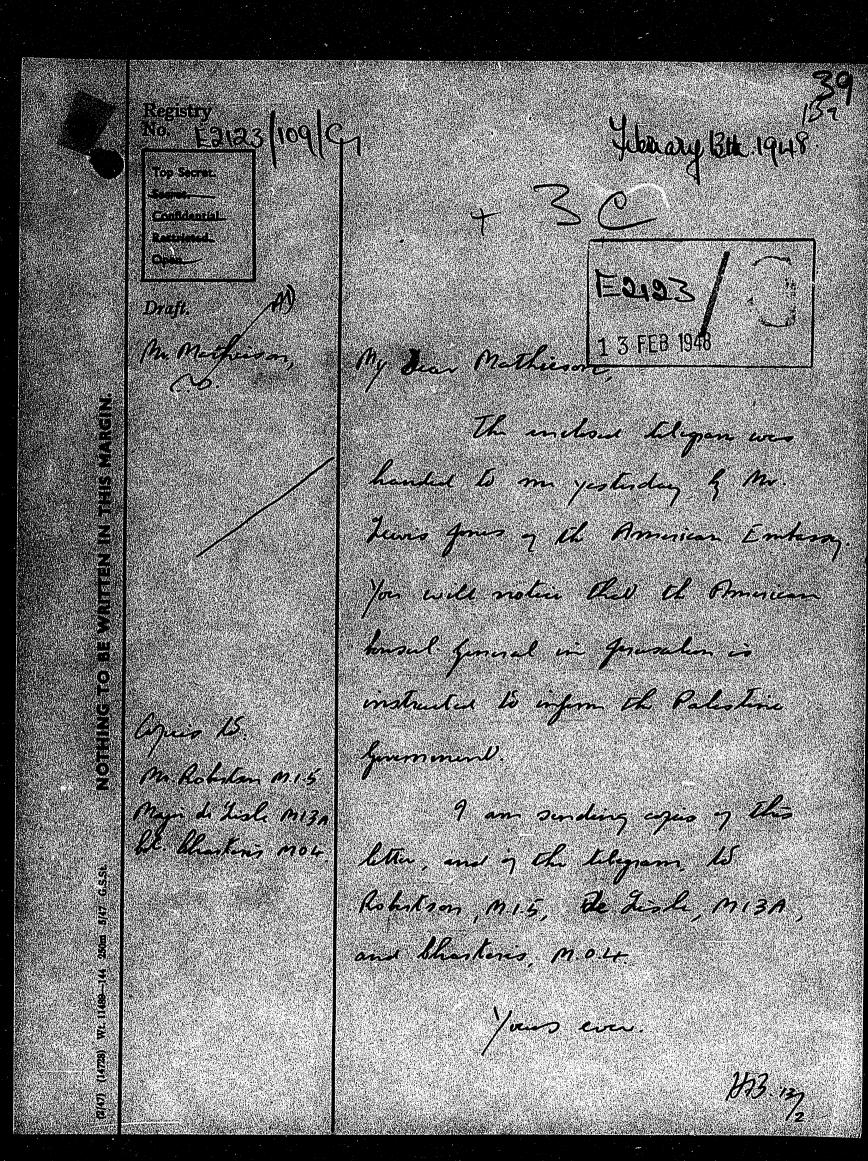
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N. A. C. ESPLOYOR, Pro., E.R.R., COLLEGE WALL.

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CONFIDENTIAL

INCOMING TELEGRAM

THE DEPARTMENT

TO: LONDON

RECD: February 11, 1948

Sent Jerusalem for action; rptd London for info of British Government.

Department has received information that certain Jewish groups in Jerusalem plan "a tremendous explosion there of holy places" attributing explosion to Arabs. Department cannot vouch reliability source, but believes information sufficiently serious to warrant transmission for information Palestine Government.

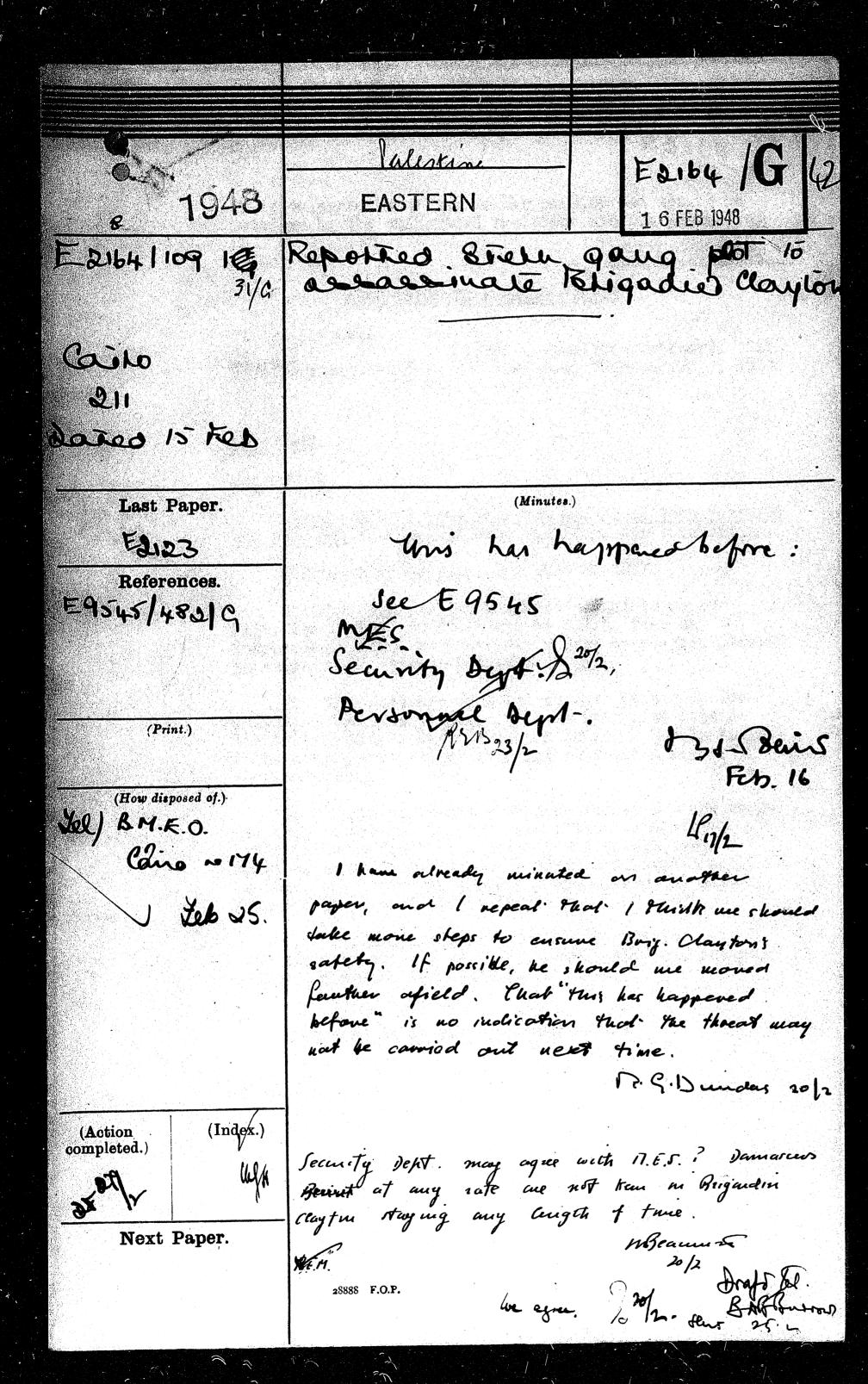
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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell

No. 211 15th February, 1948 D. 12.16 p.m. 15th February, 1948 R. 1.25 p.m. 15th February, 1948

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 22 of 15th February and Damascus repeated to Foreign Office for information.

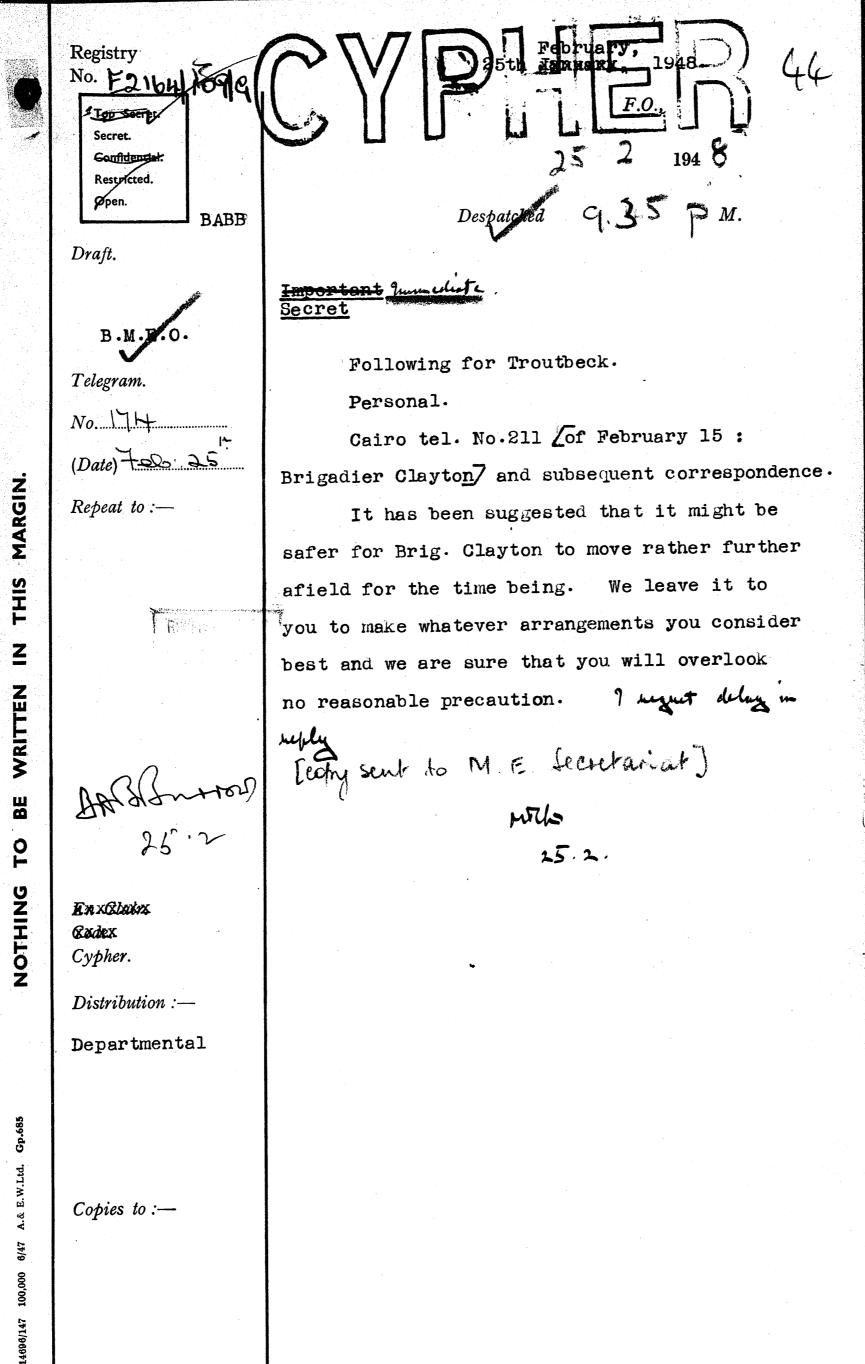
Reference my telegram No. 2009 of 1947.

Reliable information has been passed to me by Palestine Police and confirmed by S.S.Q. from an independent source that the Stern Gang have again planned to assassinate Brigadier Clayton.

- 2. Two Jews are reported to have been sent from Palestine for this purpose and have been seen outside the British Middle East Office in Cairo. One is known to be a dangerous killer from Tel Aviv and a member of the Stern Gang.
- 3. Egyptian Police have been warned and are taking measures to protect Clayton but British security authorities consider it necessary for him to leave Egypt as soon as possible. I agree and Clayton proposes to leave for Beirut on Tuesday 17th February by air. From Beirut he would visit Damascus.
- 4. Please inform me urgently if this is convenient to you and if [?grp. omtd.] arranged adequate police protection for Clayton.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARIMENTAL.

Secret.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BRITISH MIDDLE

EAST OFFICE CAIRO.

No. 174.

25th February 1948.

D. 9.55 p.m. 25th February 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Following for Troutbeck.

Personal.

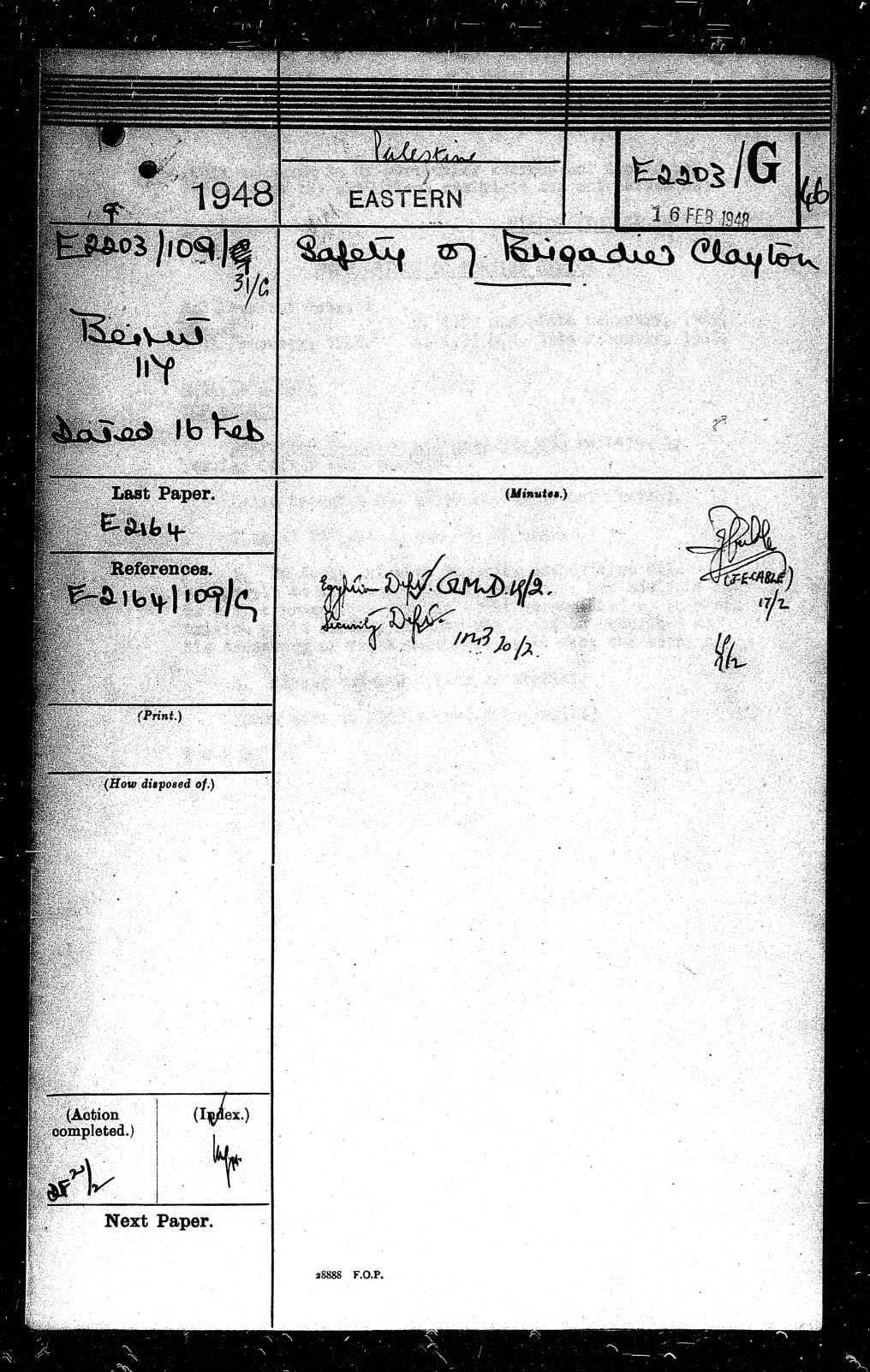
Cairo telegram No. 211 [of February 15th: Brigadier Clayton] and subsequent correspondence.

It has been suggested that it might be safer for Brigadier Clayton to move rather further afield for the time being. We leave it to you to make whatever arrangements you consider best and we are sure that you will overlook no reasonable precaution. I regret delay in reply.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

W:W:W:W:W

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E2203

1 6 FEB 1948 [This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houstoun Boswall No. 117

16th February, 1948.

D. 1.5 p.m. 16th February, 1948. R. 1.15 p.m. 16th February, 1948.

MOST IMMEDIATE TOP SECRET

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 108 repeated to Foreign Office and Damescus.

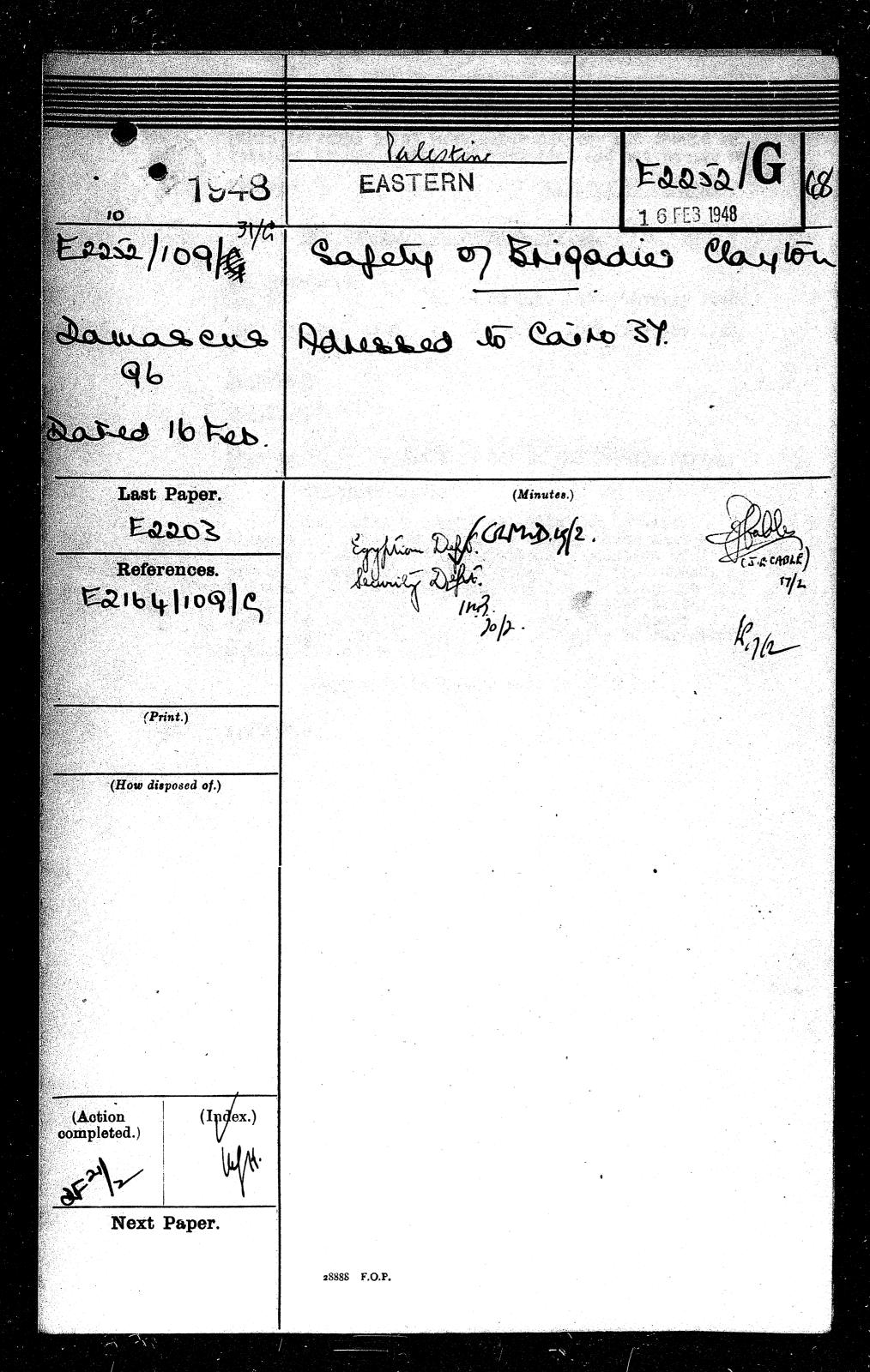
Cairo telegram No. 22 to me; Brigadier Clayton.

I shall be glad to see him of course.

- 2. No doubt Lebanese security authorities will co-operate to the best of their ability. But would it not be a wise precaution for him to be accompanied by an alert British plain clothes officer who could be described as his secretary or valet whichever would meet the case?
 - 3. Please telegraph time of arrival.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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Fans

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP.

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET).

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Broadmead. No. 96.

D. 12.50 p.m. 16th February 1948.

16th February 1948. R. 2.0 p.m. 16th February 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 37 of 16th February, repeated to Belrut and Foreign Office.

Telegram No. 22.

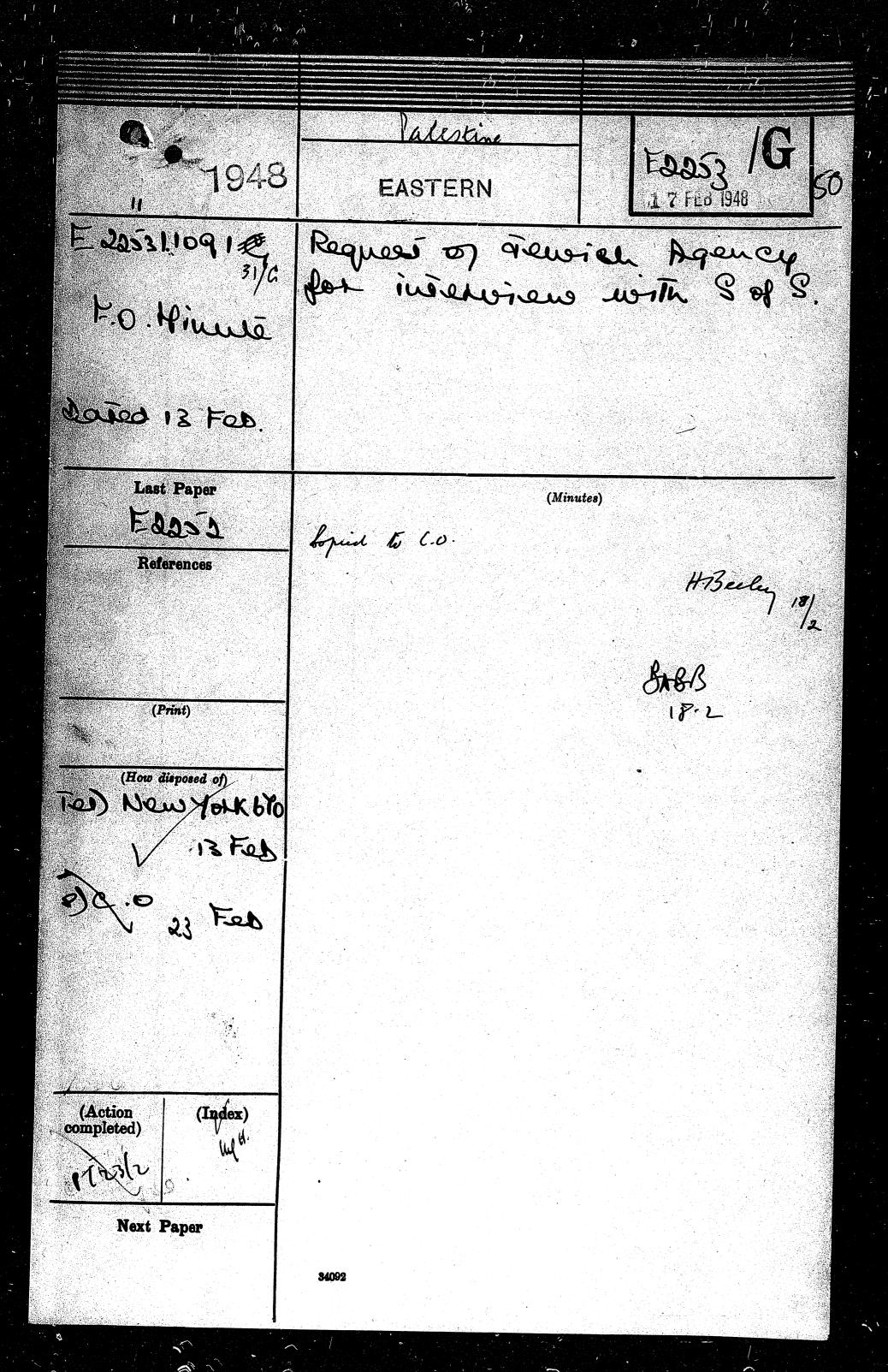
Of course I should be delighted to have Clayton for a day or two but I hardly think that a protracted stay would be opportune. Question of providing security has been referred to [gp. undec.? Communications Department] and I will telegraph as soon as possible. I cannot foresee that there should be any difficulty in my house but outside it provision for instance of a detective in car would undoubtedly cause comment.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W

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U.K. Delegation New York.

Telegram

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Repeat to:-Washington 1831

Cypher

Distribution:-PRISEC. IMMEDIATE.

Despatched

February, 1948.

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Following for Colonial Secretary from

Foreign Secretary.

Yesterday I was approached in the House of Commons by Drayson, the Conservative Member for Skipton, who told me that he had been asked to convey to me a request that I should meet certain people coming from Palestine and representing the Jewish Agency, who wanted to give me important information and make certain proposals to me. It was indicated that Ben-Gurion himself would come. 2. In reply I told him I could not receive representations either from the Jewish Agency or the Arab Higher Committee on the subject of the future of Palestine since the matter was now in the hands of the United Nations I added that you were now on you way to the United States and I thought that any representations which it was desired to make should be made in the first place to the United Nations Commission. I thought this would be the proper channel for passing their proposals to you. # M ...

My

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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Cypher/OTP

PRISEG

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 670
D. 12,40 a.m. 14th February, 1948
13th February, 1948

Repeated to Washington No. 1831

SUPATION MEL

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to U.K. Delegation New York telegram
No. 670 of 13th February repeated for information to
Washington.

Following for Colonial Secretary from Foreign Secretary.

Yesterday I was approached in the House of Commons by Drayson, the Conservative Member for Skipton, who told me that he had been asked to convey to me a request that I should meet certain people coming from Palestine and representing the Jewish Agency, who wanted to give me important information and make certain proposals to me. It was indicated that Ben-Gurion himself would come.

2. In reply I told him I could not receive representations either from the Jewish Agency or the Arab Higher Committee on the subject of the future of Palestine since the matter was now in the hands of the United Nations Commission. I added that you were now on your way to the United States and I thought that any representations which it was desired to make should be made in the first place to the United Nations Commission. I thought this would be the proper channel for passing any proposals to His Majesty's Government.

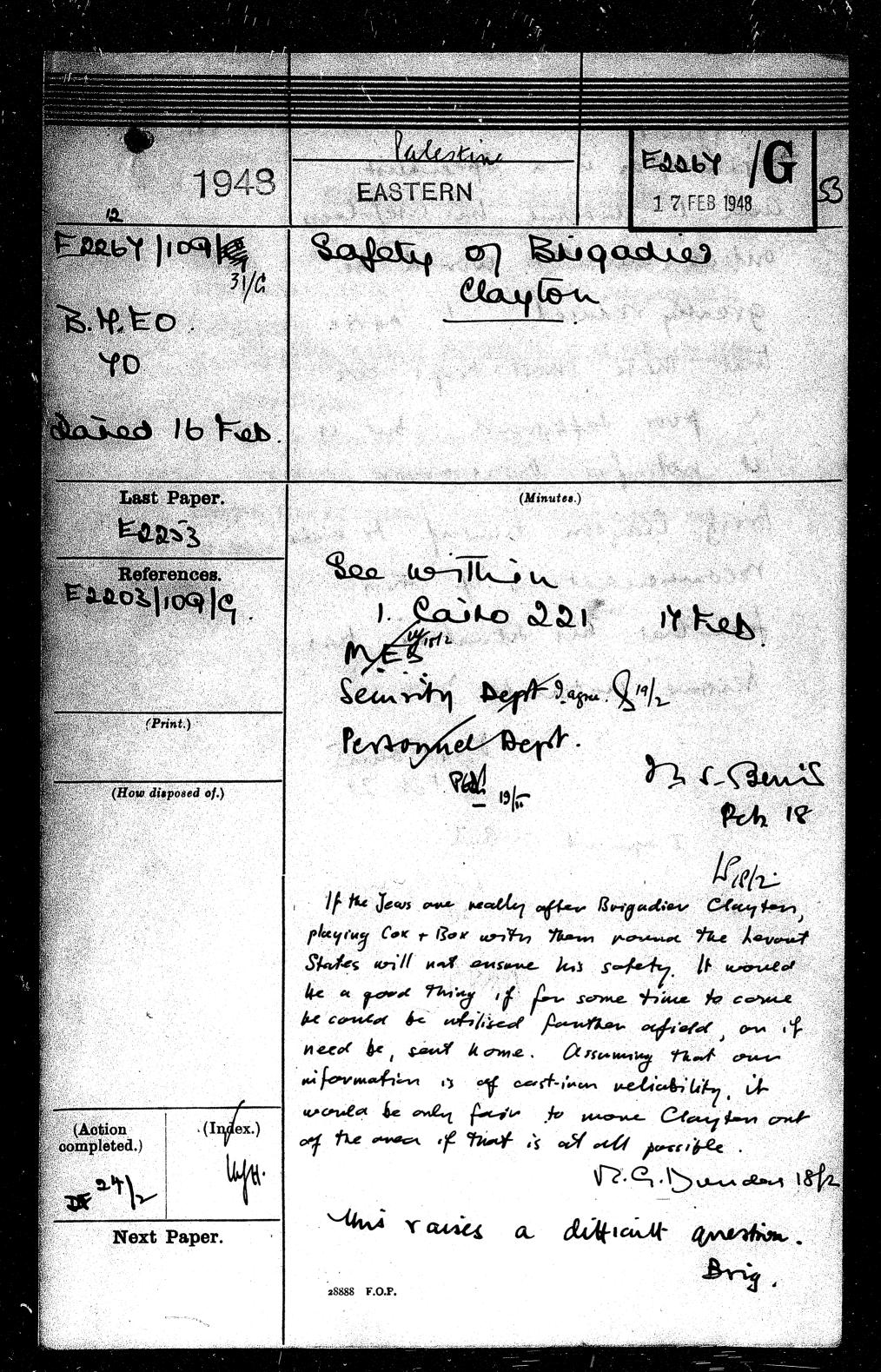
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Brij. Claryton is a Specialist and l'imagnie his usefrhen anticle the ME would be greatly reduced. I agree that these short trypi are a pour safeguard: but is U not for Brito or Brig-Clayton hunserf to brake necommendations if then feel that his situation has become unterable?

BS Buis Feb. 21

I april 1 m. Bith. L.C.L. Pyran

Eddel RILES

CYPEUR/OTP

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No. 70.

D: 7.08 p.m. 16th February, 1948.

16th February, 1948. R: 8,50 p.m. 16th February, 1948.

West statement

ASSESSED to Belevil telegram No. 22 of February 16th repositor to Kerchen Office and Damagons.

From Clayton.

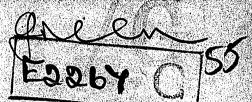
Your telegram No. 31 to Gairo.

Many thanks. Am now arriving on 18th. Will wire temperor time of sprival. Afraid no plain clothes man areliable.



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Epa



[This telegram is of perticular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Sypher/OTE

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R Campbell
No. 221
D. 11.36 a.m. 17th February, 1948.
17th February, 1948. R. 1.4 p.m. 17th February, 1948.

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Addressed to Beirut telegrem No. 21 of Perview 1/th repeated for information to Damascus and Foreign Office.

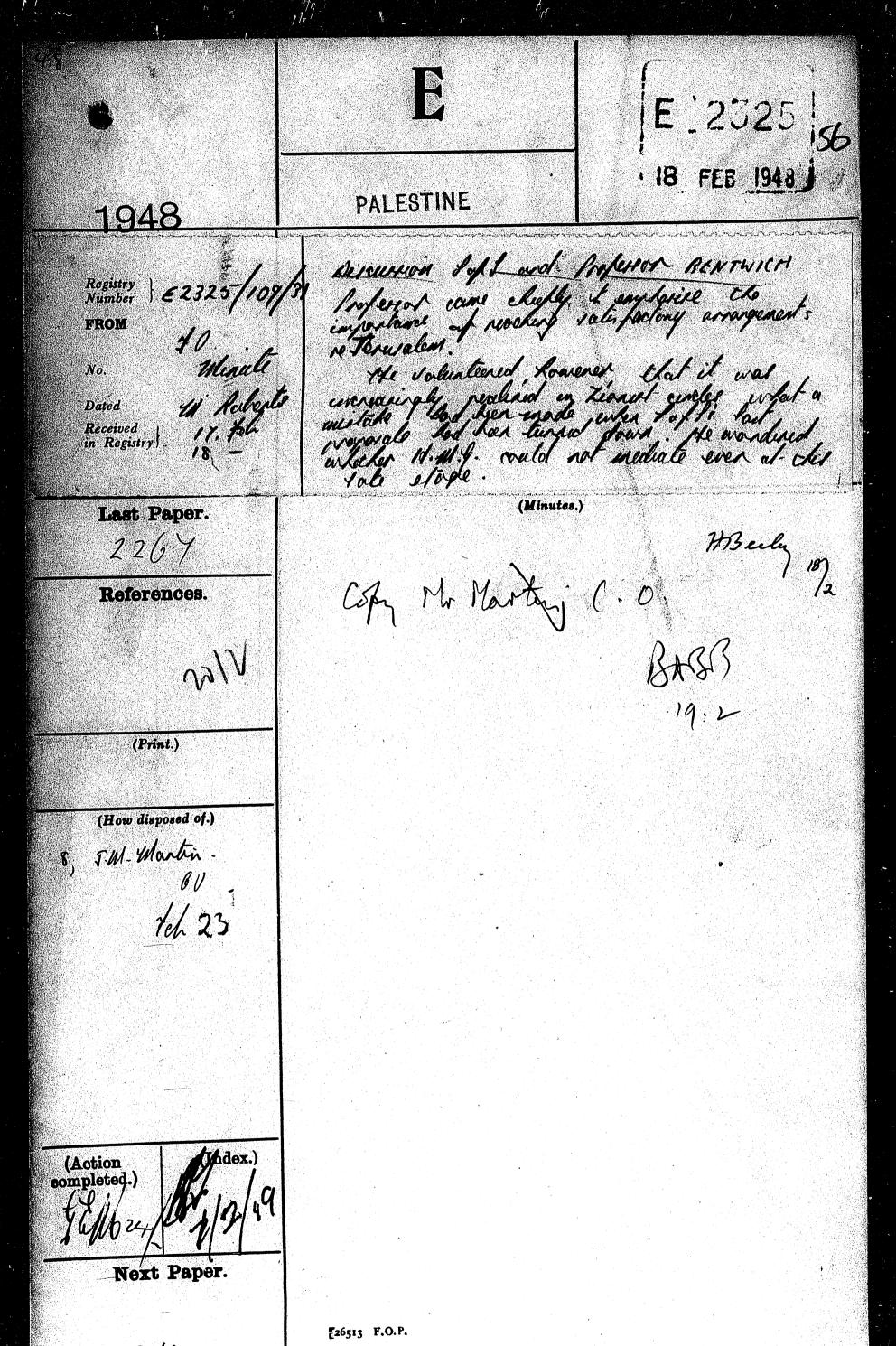
Your telegram No. 31.

Clayton due to arrive Beirut 1015 hours Wednesday February 18th by MISR aircraft.

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RD OFFICE, LONDON



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President de la company de

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The Secretary of State teld me that nothing of any special importance passed in his talk yesterday with Professor Bentwich. The latter had come chiefly to emphasise the importance of reaching satisfactory arrangements about Jerusalem. The Secretary of State did not indicate what we had in mind.

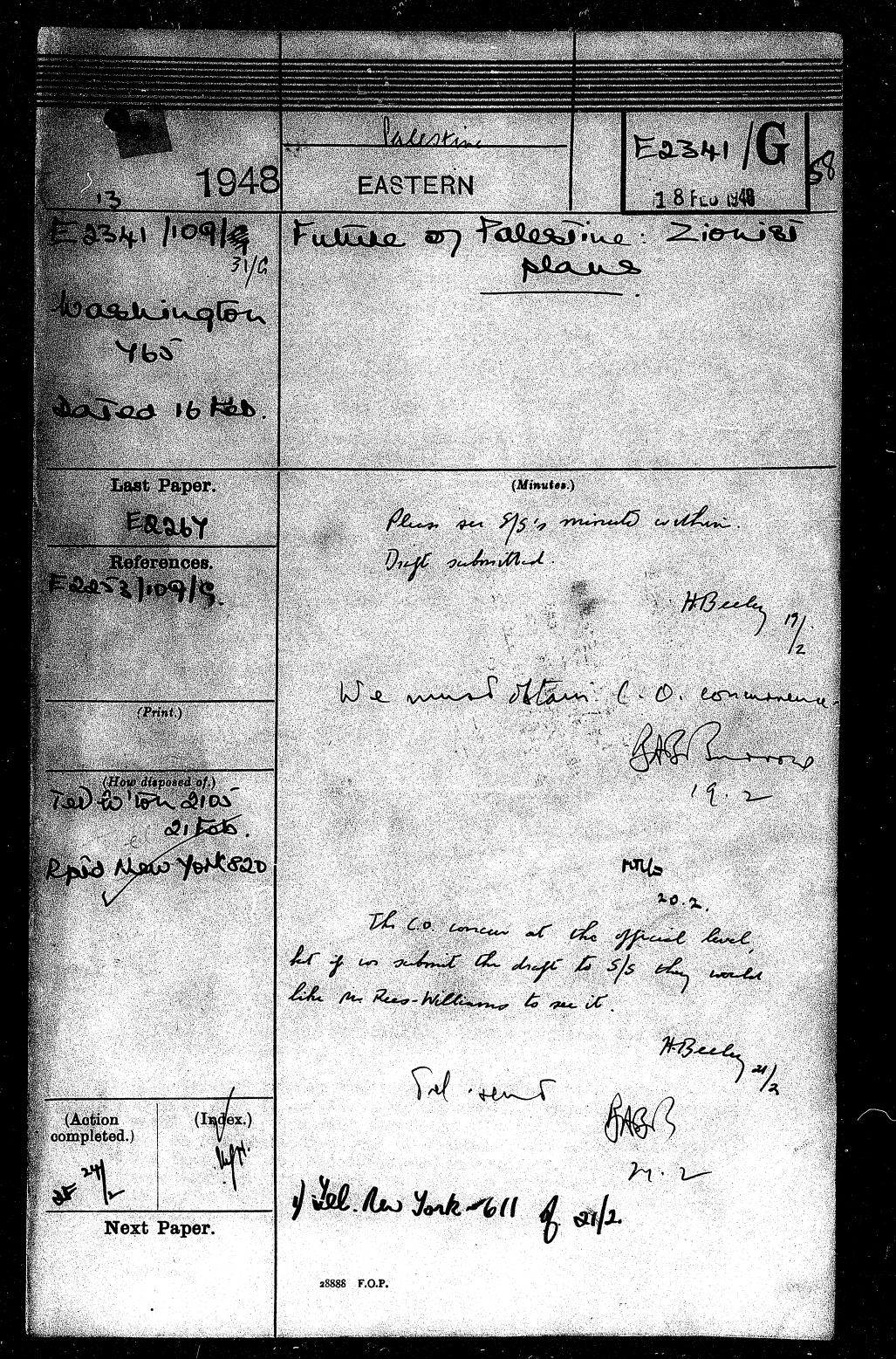
Professor Bentwich volunteered, however, that it was increasingly realised in Zionist circles what a mistake had been made when the Secretary of State's last proposals had been turned down. He wondered whether we could not mediate even at this late stage. The Secretary of State made it clear that we could do nothing of this sort until we were out of Palestine.

17th February, 1948.

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SECREPARY OF STATE.

You will have seen Washington Telegram No. 765 reporting that a Senior Official of the Zionist Organisation in America called on our Embassy in Washington recently and made certain proposals which he said came from Dr. Weizmann. He seems to have suggested that we should review our decision to leave Palestine at all costs by 15th May. While it is very encouraging to see the Zionists coming round to the attitude that they would do better to try and cooperate with us, I am sure you will agree that we must squash at once any suggestion that we are prepared to stay on longer than already announced. I think it will very much strengthen our position when bargaining with the Jews if we now make it absolutely clear to them that all rumours on this point are without foundation. This may encourage them to make the best use possible of the remaining time available.

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CYPHER/OTP

PRISEC

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel. No. 765.

D: 10.58 p.m. 16th February, 1948.

16th February, 1948.

R: 5.30 a.m. 17th February, 1948.

Repeated to: U.K.Delegation New York.

SECRET

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 765 of 16th February repeated for information to U.K.Delegation New York.

Your telegram No. 670 to United Kingdom Delegation New York. Palestine.

A senior official of the Zionist organisation of America who deals with visa and immigration questions and is known to the Passport Control Office in New York as well disposed towards Britain, called on a member of my staff on 14th February. He said that he had come at the suggestion of Dr. Weizmann and wished to put certain considerations before us about the future of Palestine.

- 2. He began by saying that when Dr. Silver returned from Palestine he was much less belligerent than when he left. While in Palestine he had asked Dr. Goldstein, acting head of the American Zionist Emergency Council, to make it clear to the press at an off-the-record conference that the Zionists would prefer that attacks on Britain should be soft-pedalled because of certain difficulties arising out of the situation there. Information from Palestine was that the younger Zionists, and in particular the Haganah, wanted the British out of Palestine because they felt that they could themselves deal with the Arabs inside Palestine, including those who had infiltrated into the country from neighbouring states. Their arms supplies were quite enough for this purpose and they had indeed received a considerable consignment about a month ago. They could moreover obtain further arms, though possibly not from the United States. But they feared that, if the Arabs in Palestine were defeated, it would be the signal for the Arab states to intervene officially. This would make the situation very difficult.
- 3. Various rumours had reached our informant's ears at Lake Success that in certain circumstances His Majesty's Government might possibly consider remaining a little longer in Palestine, and on his mentioning this to Weizmann, the latter had told him that he, too, had heard similar rumours. Weizmann therefore asked our informant, in a letter which was shown to us, to try to find out whether these rumours had any basis. This was the reason for his visit to the Embassy.

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4. He wondered whether there was any chance that we might remain in Palestine for a few months after the 15th May if the Jewish Agency were so to request the United Nations Commission. The idea would be that Britain might be prepared to give some assistance to the formation of an economic union, since chaos in Palestine could not be in our interests, and, if there were any possibility of this, Dr. Weizmann might himself take soundings of the British authorities in England.

5. The member of my staff who saw our informant was very careful not to commit himself in any way, merely enquiring what backing such an idea would be likely to have in Zionist circles. Our informant said that Weizmann would be prepared to "break the Jewish Agency" over it. When asked about Silver's position and whether, in view of events at the Basle congress in December 1946, Weizmann's views were likely to prevail, the informant said that most of the Jewish Agency would give ten thousand dollars to see Silver and Neumann under ground. He thought therefore that Weizmann would in fact prevail.

6. The informant was then asked how this proposal could be reconciled with His Majesty's Government's frequently announced policy that they were not prepared to take part in the implementation of any solution which did not command the agreement of both Arabs and Jews. He said that, in spite of the hostility to Britain amongst Zionists in Palestine, it was generally realised that the presence of British forces had made possible the continuance of Jewish life and the maintenance intact of all Jewish settlements up to the present. They felt that so long as British troops remained in the country there would be no official intervention by the Arab states. His idea seemed to be that the British forces would have to play no active part, that the Jews could deal with Arab disturbances in Palestine itself, and that the mere presence of British forces would prevent outside intervention.

The informant went on to say that the Jews might also be prepared to ask the United Nations Commission that Britain should continue to maintain bases in Palestine. This he thought would in fact be opposed only by a very small group who followed Dr. Sneh, and by the Stern Gang. With the exception of a few small points on which there was still disagreement, Dr. Silver had succeeded in bringing about an accord between the Haganah and the Irgun and he believed therefore that the Irgum would in the circumstances be prepared to cease their activities against the British forces. If Britain would help in the manner he had described, the Jewish Agency would be prepared to risk the hostility of the Soviet Union, since they did not want any Soviet influence in Palestine. It was pointed out to him that the Soviet Union would be most unlikely to agree to the retention of bases in Palestine by Britain. But he appeared to think that this difficulty could in some manner be overcome. He added that, if expense were in

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question, the Jewish Agency could help by means of a fund which they had been collecting, over and above that which was being raised by the united Jewish appeal. This fund had risen to over one and a half million dollars in ten days.

- 8. It was pointed out to our informant that the whole scheme of course amounted to indirect implementation by Britain of a solution which was unacceptable to the Arabs and that he must realise that no comment thereon could be expected from this Embassy. He said that he fully realised this, but would be grateful if it could be passed on to the proper quarters. If some indication could be given to him privately as to whether or not the scheme was within the realm of possibility he would inform Dr. Weizmann. He was told that we would of course be prepared to pass on what he had said, but he was warned not to raise any false hopes.
- 9. I assume that there is not the least chance that His Majesty's Government will accept these proposals which are tantamount to a plea that we should hold the ring until such time as the United Nations Commission can bring partition into effect. I should however be grateful if you would inform mewhat reply, if any, should be returned to our informant. (Your telegram under reference arrived after his visit).
- 10. Please treat the above as strictly confidential, since the informant is well disposed towards us and has often been helpful. He would of course get into serious trouble with his own people if his visit to us became known. It was probably for this reason that he chose to speak to us here, rather then to the United Kingdom Delegation at New York. He would of course convey to Dr. Weizmann anything you may authorise us to say to him.

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FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 611.

D. 2.25 p.m. 21st February 1968.

21st February 1948. R. 8.20 p.m. 21st February 1948

Repeated to: Jerusalem and Washington.

To did not see new Statesman.

I much have a talk tomorrow with Beeley and after with other Depto.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram
No.611 of 21st February, repeated for information to
Jerusalem and Washington.

Palestine.

Following personal from Secretary of State for Colonies for Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister.

[Begins]

A personal appraisal of the situation as I have found it here may be of interest.

l. The Jews are worried and gloomy. Dr. Weizmann (still a sick man) and the Agency who are concerned primarily that the Security Council should provide the means of enforcement of the Assembly's policy urge that we shall adopt a more generous attitude towards the United Nations Commission in the task of implementation, be less partial, as they see it, to the Arabs in Palestine and to the Arab States and step incursions by Arab gangs. They recognise our determination to withdraw on the announced dates even if the situation in Palestine should degenerate into chaos and no international force to control it be available. In my discussions with them I have made it clear that the Jews themselves will have some considerable responsibility for this situation. However that may be, they emphasised that the Jews would fight for their State to the last man.

2. The Agency are keeping up their pressure on the press the White House and the State Department. They are disappointed and becoming disillusioned and wild accusatory speeches against us are still made by some American Zionists. The sheet anchor of Jewry, friendship with Britain, which they had gravely abused is, as Weizmann had warned them, no longer to hand in the perilous waters into which they have drifted.

3. The New York press though less bitter against the United Kingdom than formerly is still critical

that

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that we have denied a port to the Jews, rejected progressive transfer of authority, insist on an inadequate period between the Commission's arrival in Palestine and the termination of the mandate, are mable to give absolute guarantees of security to the Commission's staff on arrival in Palestine and refuse facilities for the creation of a Jewish militia before May 15th. In short we are accused of not being co-operative and of wilfully hampering the Commission. In an endeavour to deal with these charges I held a press conference on February 18th and answered questions for an hour on British policy bringing out the falsity of the accusations made against us. I emphasised in positive terms the basis of our policy and stressed the unheeded warnings repeatedly made by British representatives throughout the debates in the General Assembly about the emergence of just such a situation as we are now witnessing. I put our respect for the United Nations in the centre of the picture while making it clear that the United Kingdom, While recognising the problem of the United Nations Commission also had heavy responsibilities in Palestine till the end of the mandate which could not be treated lightly. It was from our point of view impracticable to accept all the items of the Assembly resolution of Nevember 30th.

4. After meeting the Chairman and members of the Palestine Commission in personal talks I attended a formal session on February 19th. The Commission are perplexed by the magnitude and difficulties of their task. They wish to get their staff to Palestine without delay and themselves to arrive seener than we can permit. The Chairman and Bunche both see our point of view but it is evident that in view of the uncertainties of their position in Palestine after May 15th they feel that there is a great deal of preparatory work which can only be done on the spet even if as much as possible is settled in New York and Lenden beforehand. I remeved the difficulty about Tacilities for the departure of their first staff group of six and told them that while we could not extend the fertnight's everlap we should be prepared to receive the Commission in London on route to Palestine. They will come to London probably towards the end of March to conclude outstanding discussions. In early April they will receive a report from their staff in Palestine on the position there and then discuss further plans with us. There are, however, a great number of matters to be discussed in New York yet.

5. The cross examination of me by the Commission later in the week lasted nearly four hours. They were friendly and critical but could have approached their problems in a more practical spirit. All the criticisms currently ventilated in the press were shot at me and met. They are not happy at our refusal to permit the creation of a militia in the Jewish State

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before we transfer civil authority. The whole of their present work, however, is overshadowed by their report to the Security Council for they feel that their terms of reference are extremely difficult of fulfilment and that they must be provided with adequate means of carrying out their task. I think it not unlikely that they will throw in their hands if the Security Council is unable to meet their request for a force.

- 6. I have also seen the Secretary General (who is much concerned that Palestine should not now destroy the prestige of the United Nations) and also the Chairman of the Security Council. There seems to be much going on behind the scenes since the request to the Security Council has put everyone on the spot especially the United Nations which blundered into the present situation and the United States who encouraged it to do so. There is widespread fear of the part Russia may play. American policy is as yet an enigna but it is the subject of much speculation that the United States in spite of Jewish pressure will seek some way of evading the issue by proposing conciliation or by calling for a Special Assembly on the ground that the Resolution of November 30th is unworkable. In that event we shall no doubt be asked to hold on in Palestine some time longer. I have made it clear wherever possible that our dates cannot be postponed. In any case there will be opposition both to the provision of an international force and to a compromise that may either attempt to sell the Arabs a pig in a poke or alternatively snatch from the Jews the verdict of the Assembly. In either event Palestine would be thrown into conflict and chaos on our withdrawal. I have not asked for further instructions on the Commission's special report to the General Assembly as it proved to be what had been anticipated and its points are adequately cevered by the instructions received befor I left London.
- 7. We have played an unobtrusive yet effective part on the Jerusalem proposals and the Trusteeship Council is working on them now. The problem of security in Jerusalem after May 15th centinues to werry the Commission. Burns has issued the necessary warnings in the Trusteeship Council on the dangers or delay.
- 8. The common view expressed here is that our pelicy is pre-Arab. It has been widely convassed that my instructions are to thwart the United Nations in the implementation of its Palestine policy to create a situation which will lead to revision of the partition plan, to obstruct the Commission so as to produce chaos and conflict in Palestine and to veto any resolution in the Security Council in favour of adequate means of enforcement. This line of course

follows

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follows the Crossman paragraph in last week's New Statesman. I have utterly repudiated these rumours but they add to our difficulties in trying to get our position understood.

[Ends].

Please repeat Important to Jerusalem as my telegram No.124.

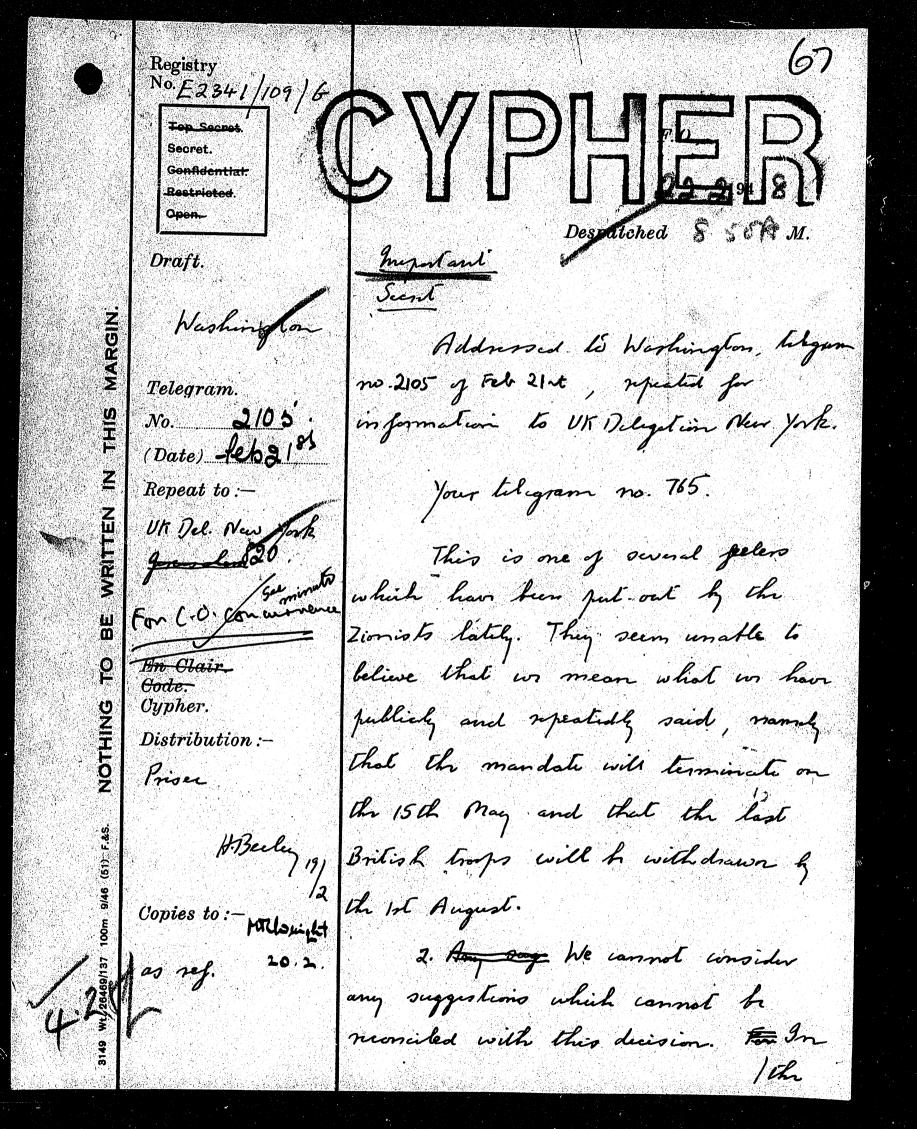
[Copies sent to Prime Minister.]

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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3. 9 then then would be advantage in making the above as clear as possible to your informant, in which we want in much a way as to lame him in my about the what we had the supersents the views of these in automates in borden on him him is automated.

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PRISEC.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON.

No. 2105.

D. 8.50 a.m. 22nd February 1948.

21st February 1948.

Repeated to: New York (United Kingdom Delegation) No. 820.

IMPORTANT.

SKADES

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 2105 of Pebruary 21st, repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

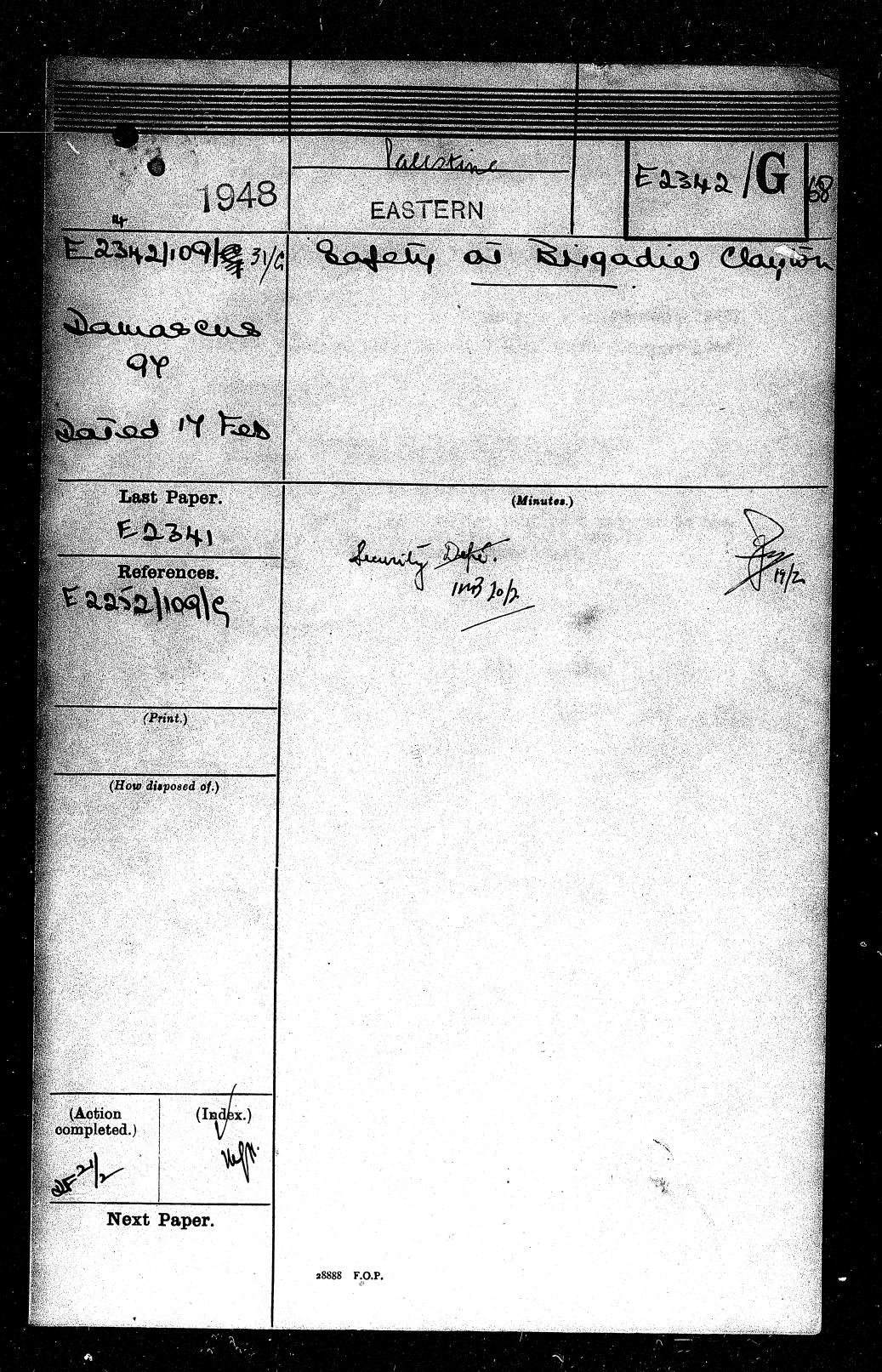
Your telegram No. 765.

This is one of several feelers which have been put out by the Zionists lately. They seem unable to believe that we mean what we have publicly and repeatedly said, namely that the mandate will terminate on the 15th May and that the last British troops will be withdrawn by the 1st August.

- 2. We cannot consider any suggestions which cannot be reconciled with this decision. In the period after the 15th May, the Zionists must either rely on the United Nations or seek a compromise with the Arabs.
- 3. I think there would be advantage in making the above as clear as possible to your informant in confidence but in such a way as to leave him in no doubt whatever that this represents the views of those in authority in London on his suggestions.

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DEPARTMENTAL.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Broadmead. D. 9.41 p.m. 17th February 1948. 17th February 1948. R. 11.5 a.m. 17th February 1948.

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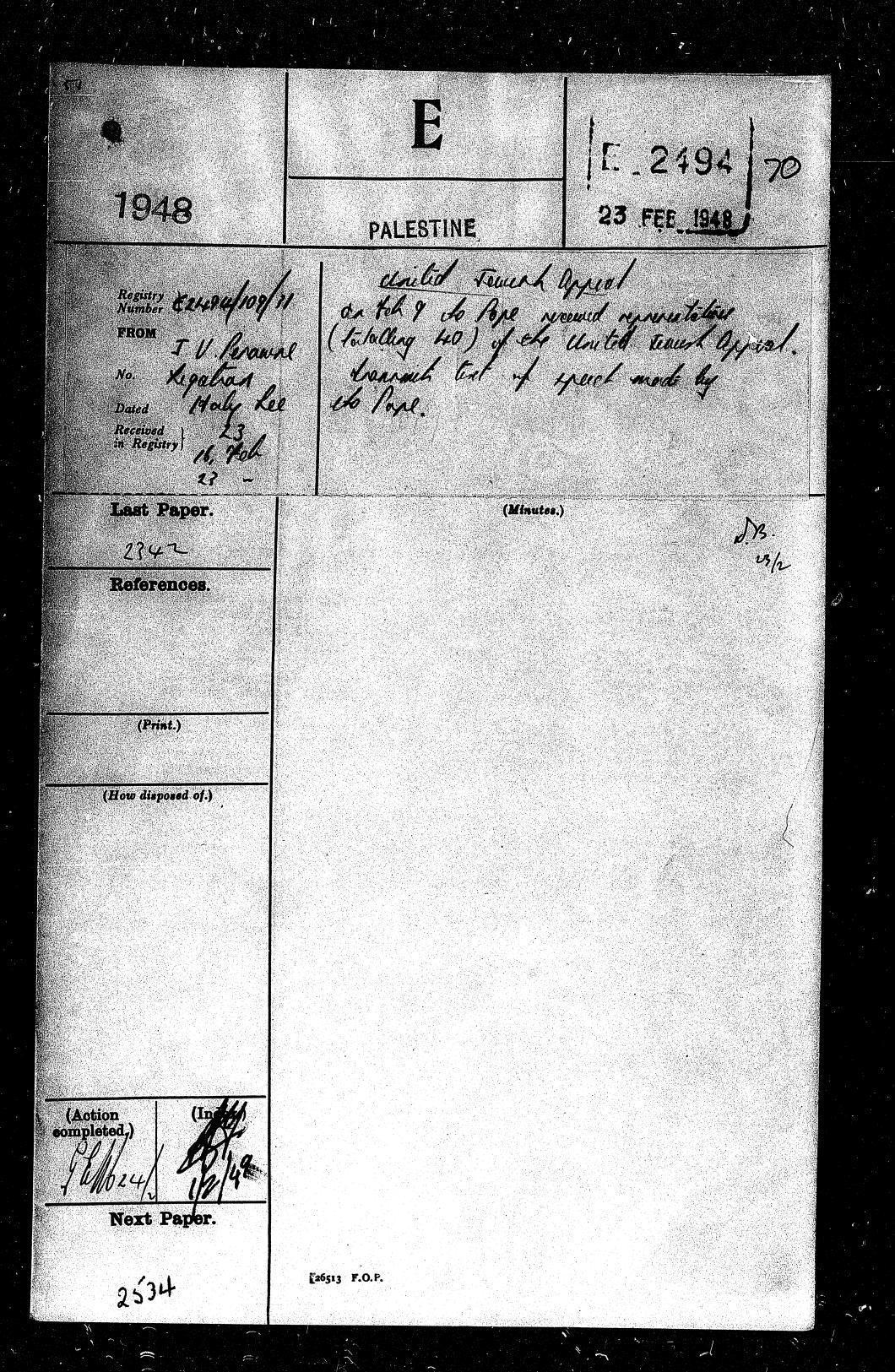
repeated to Cairo and Foreign Office.

My telegram No. 37 to Cairo.

Syrian President has sent me a message to the effect that he would welcome a visit from C. and will "take necessary precautions".

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No. 23.

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British Legation to the Holy See,

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16th February 1948.

23 FEE [50]

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, on February 9th, the Pope received representatives (totalling about 40 in number) of the United Jewish Appeal.

2. I understand from the Office of the United States Representative to the Holy See, who arranged the audience, that the United Jewish Appeal is the Committee principally responsible for collecting subscriptions in the U.S.A. for the relief and migration of Jewish refugees. The Pope received the party in his own study, which was a special act of favour, but he took care not to give them a chance to hold forth and possibly embarrass him by controversial remarks, e.g. about Palestine. The proceedings were confined to a brief address by His Holiness in warm and sympathetic, if general, terms. (It will be remembered that the Catholic Church's record of opposition to Nazi oppression of the Jews was especially good, both as regards public pronouncements and as regards active assistance to Jewish fugitives). The Pope's speech was as follows: —

"This is not the first group of your much-tried people We have been pleased to receive here at the home and hearth of the Christian family. We welcome the opportunity of your visit to tell you once more how deeply our paternal heart has been moved by the manifestations of gratitude for what We were able and so happy to do to lighten the burdens of your people among so many others in he dark days of the war.

"The commission which God has given Us, opens Our heart to the sufferings of all His children, and more especially today are We eager to save the little ones who so screly need a Father's protection and care and assistance. They were always so dear to the Heart of Christ.

"We gladly invoke the blessing of God Most High on all the charitable endeavours you may undertake in His name. May His grace and love help all men to purge this divinest human sentiment and duty of all that could be unworthy of its Author, and thus bring peace back soon to His great human family and Ours."

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to H.M. Representative in Washington.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect, Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. V. Porocona

The Right Hon.

Ernest Bevin, M.P.,

Etc., etc., etc.

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FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Pr. Mek,

D. 8.19 s.m. 29th February,

Ne.283 26th February, 1948.

R. 11.02 a.m. 29th February,

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B.M.E.O. telegram No.30.

I should be very glad to put Brigadier Clayton up and the Iraqi authorities confirm that they accept responsibility for his protection. Please telegraph times and dates as soon as possible.

[Copy sent to Middle Bast Secretariat].

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1 LIAK 1948

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Mt Marsie, 1948.

R: 10,40 a.m. 18t March 1948.

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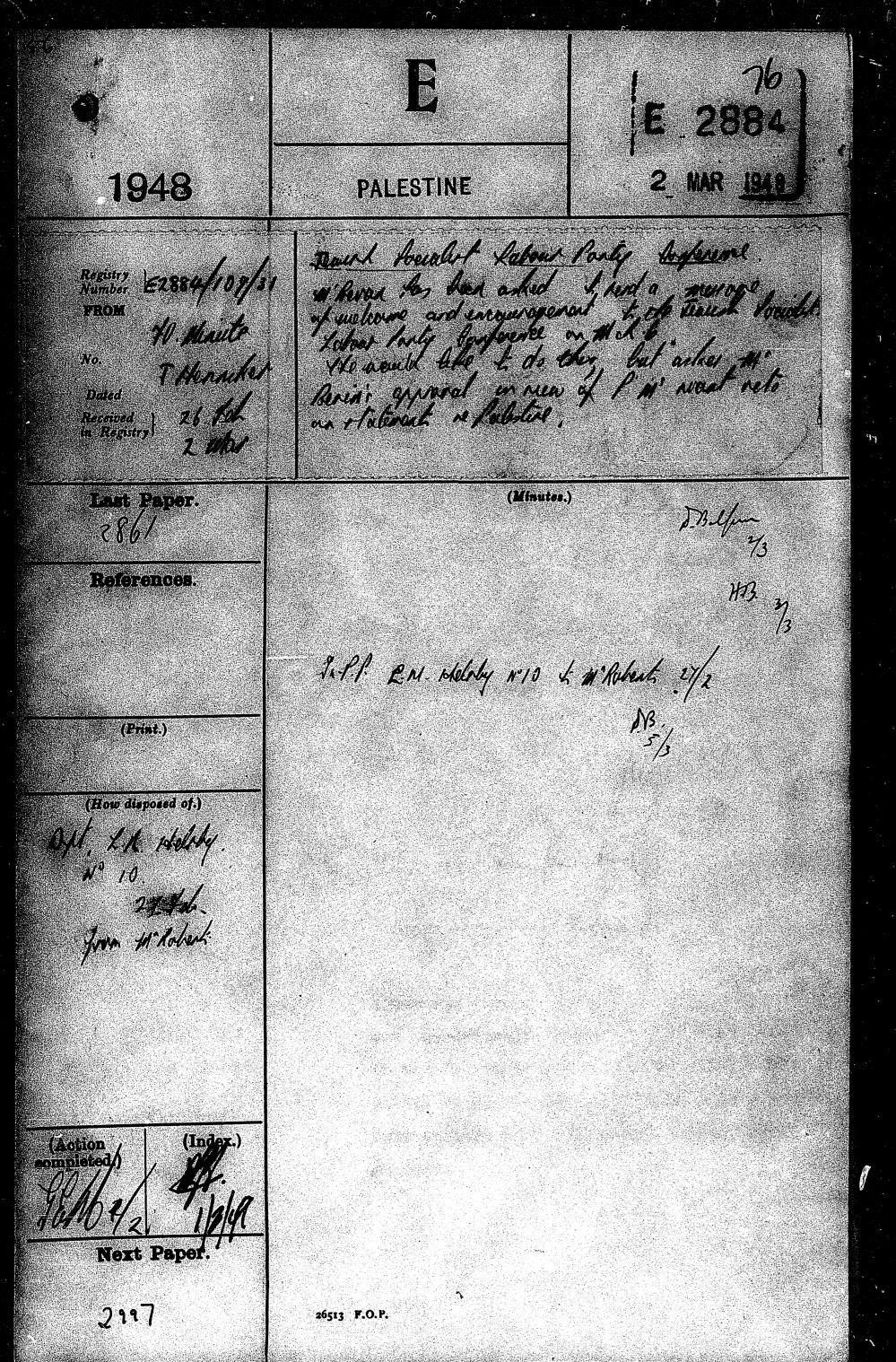
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Tours etemerals,

(Sd.) F. K. ROBERTS.

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DRAFT AND THE PARTY AND THE AND THE ANY AND THE PARTY AND

Your request for advice as to whether you should send a message of velocity and encouragement to the Jewish Socialist Labour Party Conference on the 6th Narch has been referred to me in view of the fact that the present Palestine situation is so very deligate.

After careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that it would be very much better if you did not send such a message. As I think you know, the policy of H.M.G. is one of strict impartiality in this matter, and we are being very careful not to give the impression of taking sides with either the Araba or the Jova. Moreover, the question is at this very moment the subject of delicate negotiations in the Security Council at New York, where the Colemial Secretary is handling it on behalf of Hall.C. While these proceedings are in progress it would be all the more unfortunate to make any gesture which might be construed or represented as denoting Helled's support for either Jevs or Araba. I om afraid that a message from a Ministey - and paytheularly one not directly concerned with Palestine to the Jevish Secialist Labour Party might easily be so misrepresented and I must therefore suggest that you should decline their request.

The River of a 27th February, 1948.

INCEXED

My dear Roberts.

Thank you for your letter of to-day enclosing a draft letter to the Minister of Health about the suggestion that he should send a message of welcome and encouragement to the Jewish Socialist Labour Party Conference.

I am afraid that there must have been some element of misunderstanding about this, since the Prime Minister sent the minute, of which I attach a copy, to the Minister of Health a few hours before your letter arrived.

John minery (INTELLED)

Frank Roberts, Esq., C.M.G., Foreign Office.

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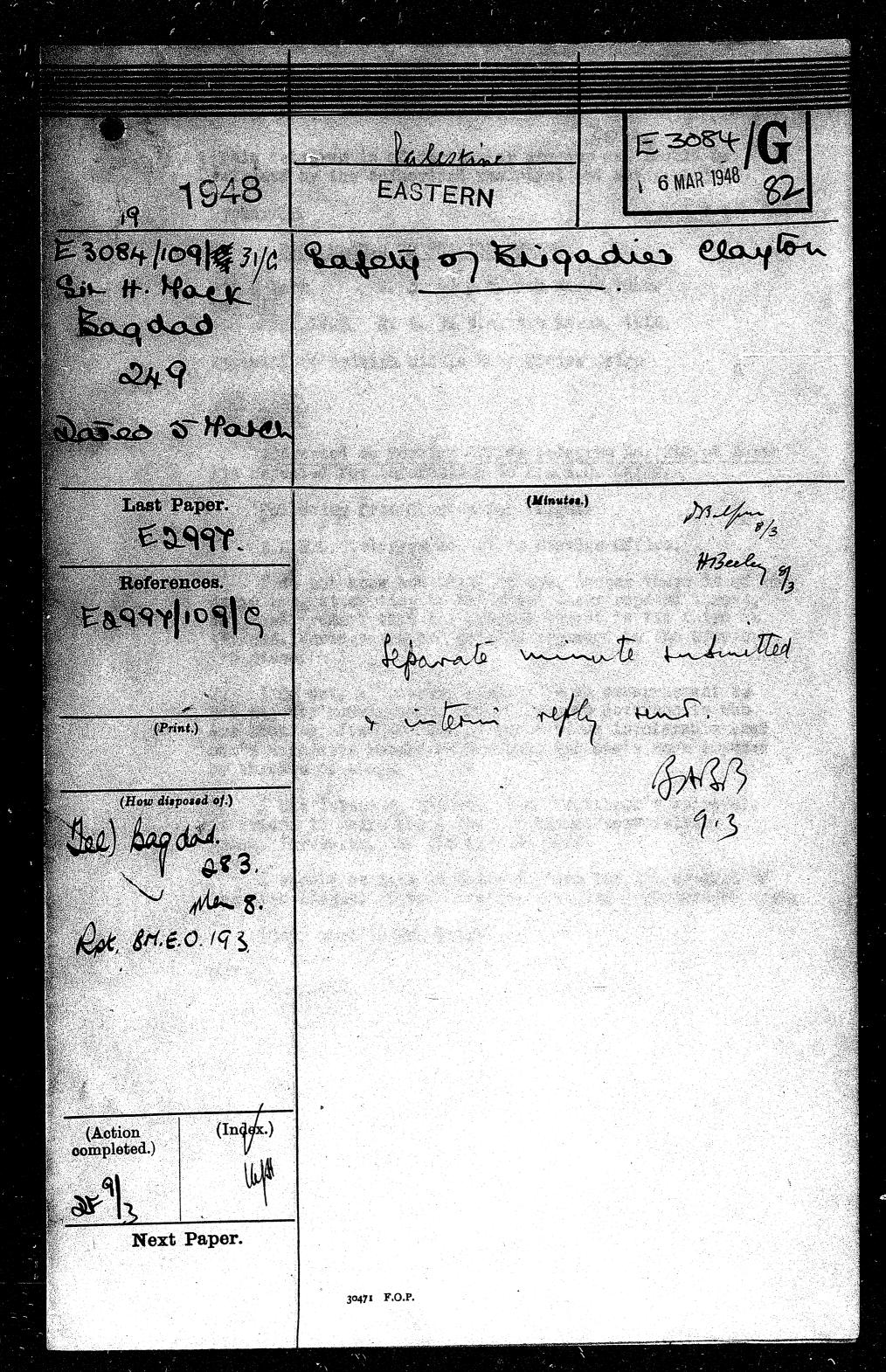
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3084 [This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

FILES

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H Mack

D. 3. 50 p.m. 5th March, 1948.

No. 249
5th March, 1948. R. 6. 34 p.m. 5th March, 1948.

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo

IMPORT ANT TOP SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 249 of March 5th repeated for information to B.M.E.O. Cairo.

Following from Clayton for Wright.

B.M.E.O. telegram No. 81 to Foreign Office.

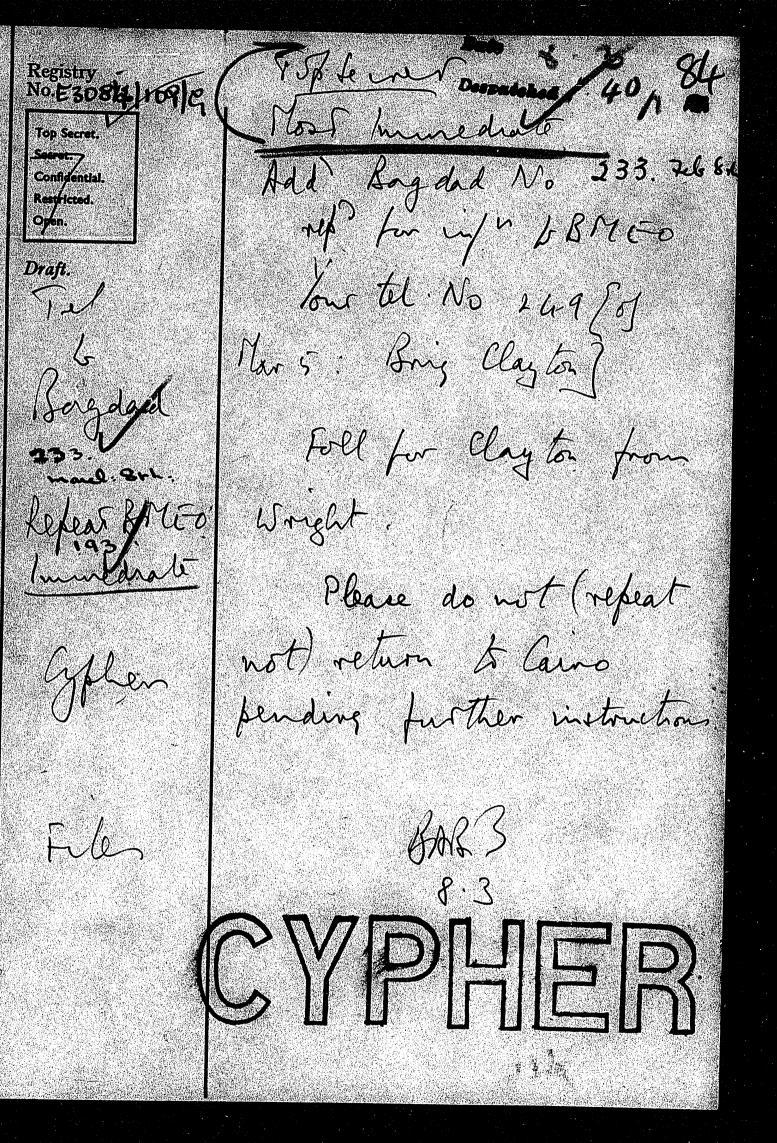
I do not know how much, if any, danger there is of the Stern gang attempting to carry out their reputed threat, but would remark that the present threat is the third in the past three years and nothing happened in the previous two cases.

- 2. I do not, of course, wish to be an embarrasment to His Majesty's Government or to the Arab Governments who are looking after me, but it seems to me intolerable that one's movements should be dictated and one's work impeded by threats of thugs.
- 3. I had intended, subject to M. Troutbeck's approval, to return to Cairo about the 9th thereafter visiting Amman, Jerusalem, and the Persian Gulf.

I should be back in Cairo in time for the meeting of the Arab League. I am, however, awaiting instructions here.

[Copy sent to Mr. Wright]

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Cypher/OTP Top Secret

FILES

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BAGDAD

No.233 8th March, 1948.

D. 1.40 p.m. 8th March, 1948

Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo No.193 Immediate.

MOST IMMEDIATE TOP SECRET

Addressed to Bagdad No.233 of March 8th, repeated for information to B.M.E.O.Cairo.

Your telegram No.249 [of March 5th; Brigadier Clayton].

Following for Clayton from Wright.

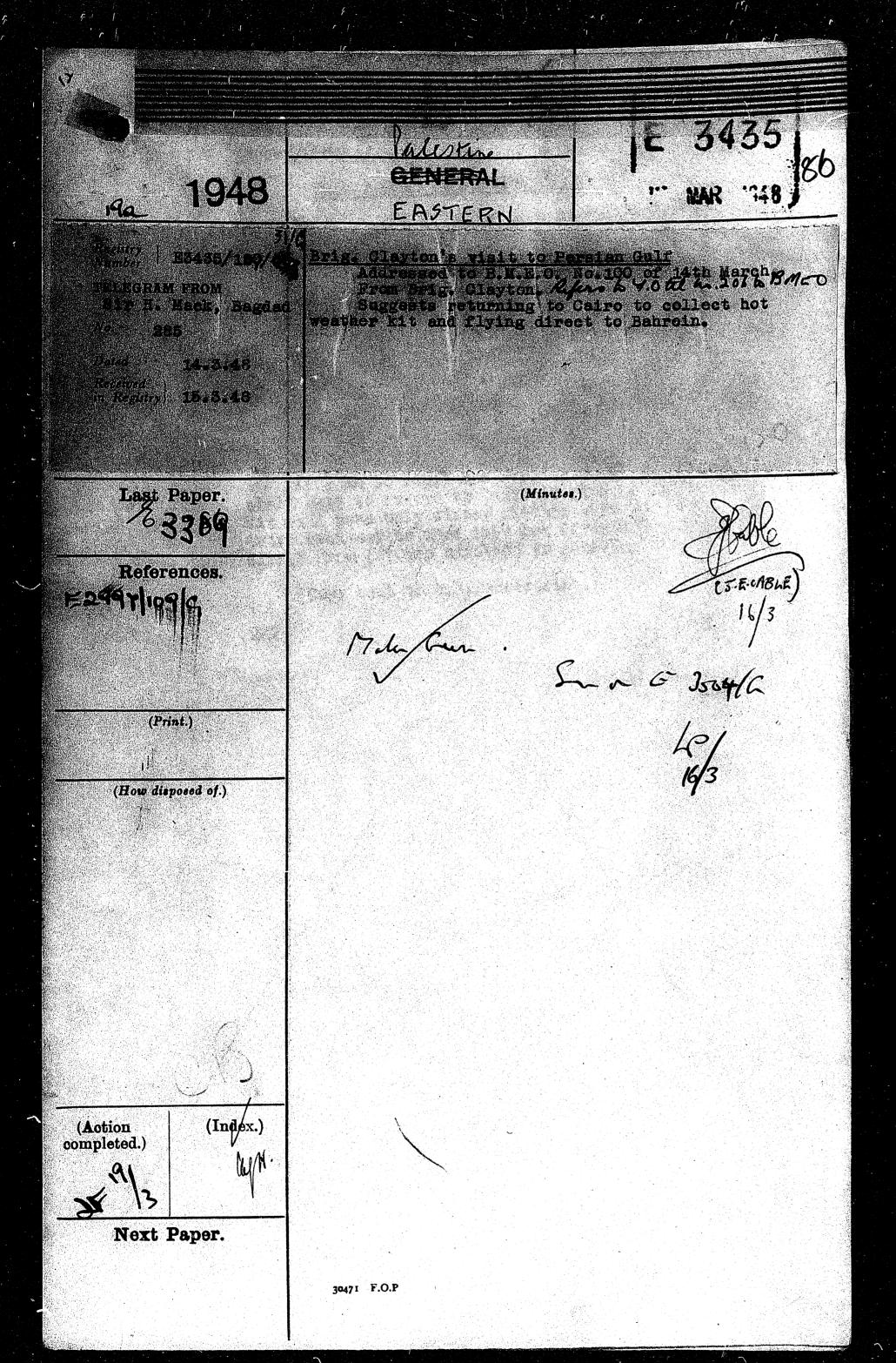
Please do not (repeat not) return to Cairo pending further instructions.

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Cypher/OTP

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN &PIECE MAR

D. 8. 20 p.m. 14th March, 1948. Sir H Mack No. 285 14th March, 1948.

R. 8. 25 p.m. 14th March, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

No. 100 of March 14th repeated for information to Foreign Office.

Following from Clayton.

Foreign Office telegram No. 206 to you

If I am to visit the Persian Gulf and Aden I shall have to return to Cairo to pick up hot weather kit as I have only winter clothes with me. My stay in Cairo need not be more than one day and I would proceed direct from [? grp omitted] to Bahrein.

[Copy sent to M.E.Secretariat.]

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68630

E 3458 16 MAR :948 Situation in Palestine. Registry E3458/109/31 Number Copy of letter from Mr. Pumphrey to N.D. Watson Colonial Office, enchosing letter received from FROM Board of Deputies of British Jews, expressing J. L. Pumphrey the Boards concern at the present situation in Palestine. No. No. 10. The Prime Minister would be grateful if a draft reply could be submitted for his consideration. Dated to Mr Henniker in Registry 11th Mar 16th " auther topy is filed, C.O. are drefting a right. Last Paper. 3 308 References. In P.P. W/ Depend bommd, R. HWood to N.D. Watson & 0. 16/3 a a. G. Brotman, Board of Deputies of British Tews 10/3 · 10 · bound N. D. Walson & I. X. Pumphrey Nº10 18/3 1.0. Walson 80. L. M'Rabert 13/3 (Print.) Prevedent, B.O. D. Bretish Jews 20/3 (How disposed of.) The last of the above papers is the reply to help. Brodetsky in its first form. 7/3 This is Prof. B's answer. No putter correspondence (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper. 3459 26513 F.O.P.

10 Downing Street, Whitehall.

11th Baret, 1968,

CLOSED TO THE PROPERTY OF THE

(Signed) J.L. PUMPHREY.

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10 Downing Street,

Whitehall.

Des Sir.

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th Merch, which will be laid become the Prime Minister as soon as possible.

Tours Leuly,

(Sgd) J.L. PUMPHREY.

The Experiment Loyalton of British Jone.

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The Beard of Dependen of Successions House House Upper White Place

10th March, 1948

The County Minters,

Sir.

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A. Heltish Jewey is not unclocked of the great contribution which Spitishs has made towards the development of the Jestah Making his made towards the development of the Jestah Making his man and of the progress achieved games has Mantatopy rule. But if the progress a filestand has not become the responsibility of the United Dantone, if when Making the responsibility of the United Dantone, if while Making and Lake Coverneys that problem to the United Mations and Lake Coverneys that problem to the United Mations has been and Lake Coverneys to protect of the Jestah Mantatop that the maly last solution was to protect owthin and Lake States, giving each pation and epoperausity of March Lake Gestaration of H.M. Coverneys to the extent that the series of the Series will be the coverneys that the Coverneys the Coverneys that the Coverneys that the Coverneys that the Coverneys that the Coverneys the Coverneys that the Coverneys the Coverneys the Coverneys that the Coverneys th

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iniga ...

United Nations in carrying out the decision of its Assembly.

9. H.M. Government are, therefore, respectfully asked to give these considerations their earnest attention, and in order to conform with the assurances by H.M. Government concerning the decision of the Assembly of the United Nations, to put into effect, even at this late hour, the following measures:-

- (1) To urge upon the High Commissioner and the British Military Commander in Palestine that in the process of winding up the Mandatory Covernment of Palestine and in the withdrawal of British troops nothing should be done that would hamper the work of the United Nations Palestine Commission; to do all in their power to bring about the apprehension and expulsion of the armed Arabs who have invaded Palestine from neighbouring countries, the detention of the so-called Arab Field Commander FAWZI KAWKJI, and the prevention of further Arab invasions; and to make it clear to the Arab States that H.M. Government will not countenance any violation of the territory of Palestine.
- (ii) To begalise the Haganah and to allow it to acquire arms, and to permit steps to be taken immediately leading to the establishment of the Jewish Militia under the authority of the United Nations Commission, as provided in the decision of the Assembly of the United Nations.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

S. BRODETSKY.

President.

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Solicitor: Charles H. L. Branuel.	(r)	10th March	1948.	
Secretary: A. G. BROTMAN.			INDEX	ED)
The Secretary of St. Foneign Office,	PRESE	reign Affa	18,	_
Whitehall, Sawal.		1	1	I
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GPPER WOBURN BLACE.

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THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES OF THE BRITISH JEWS

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The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Principal B. B. Latter-W. Belline:

Parati Se Eliman

It is the on behalf of the Scard of Deputies of Bratish Jess, representing the Angle Community, to express to Hill, bovernment the Marking serious serious education in regard to Palestines. There is no chart-phenicing person who does not beclure the recent less of life intellection and as priviled days, concerned not only to Device interests in Palestine. The person who does not beclure the recent less of life intellection and as priviled days, concerned not only to Device interests in Palestine the preservation of British as interests and good name, we feel it our time of the preservation of British as interests and good name, we feel it our time of the preservation of British as interests and good name, we feel it our time of the preservation of place our views before Half. Governments.

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THE LONGON COMMITTEE OF DEFITIES OF THE BRITISH LEWS

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

entre E. J. E. D. C.

H H LESSAN

CHARLES AND SERVICE

Further, H.M. Government declared that gut il the Mandate sea terminated on May 16th. Britain and Britain Aloue, would been compositely a for less and order in Palestine, and would not permit any other body to discretion. Compositions.

There appears, hewever, to be grave the measure to exceed the continuent formation of colline of the fever ment one the continuent of the

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And the incompatible with the maintenance of law and order that the indirects of in Horman and except ment, accompanied by ambers of lawrence manifests in the first and except ment and except ment and except the first in additional threats the country particularly as in at local distinct instance the figuration Administration was recorded that an incompatible the forest it took place. It is reported that same of these invariant man and in action that invariant manages, and the Under September of States by the Calondar C

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THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF DESITIES OF THE BRITISH EVE

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Carrier St. V. - P. Canton

EAL (oversment, are therefore, respectfully eaked to give these equinos their earners attention, and in order to conform with the assurances. Government conserving the decision of the Algembly of the United Section,

Marine som steller

In uses onen the High Complesioner and the British Military Committee; in Principle that in the process of sindinging the Managery Covernment of Filestine and in the withdrawal of Hillian troops nothing should be done that would be maper the wark of the United Nations Falsatine Commission; do not all in their passes to bring about the appealention and expulsion of the passes to bring about the appealention and expulsion of the passes, the decention of the so-excited Arab Military Committees, the decention of the so-excited Arab Military Committees, the decention of the so-excited Arab Military Committees, the decention of the so-excited Arab Military and to name it dies; to the Arab States that Halls Government will not countenance my richtige of the territory of Filestines.

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Sir.

Koine flatheamh.

President.

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I suggest that the shaft to approved.

Hisely 143

MDEXED 13th March, 1948.

Dear Roberts,

You had a copy of Pumphrey's letter of the 11th March, enclosing a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister had received from the President of the Beard of Deputies of British

I enclose the draft of a proposed reply which my Secretary of State has approved, and I should be grateful to know whether the Foreign Secretary agrees with it before forwarding it to No. 10.

I am also sending a copy of the draft to Wood for the concurrence of the Minister of Defence.

Yours sincerely,

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Coloniel Office howe been inkerned.

F.K. Roberts, Esq., Foreign Office.

1:4: James . 17/3.

March, 1948.

FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S SIGNATURE

installing the contract to hear it with the gradual

Were the appropriate that it is particular.

PROFESSOR S. BRODETSKY, President, The Board of Deputies of British Jows.

I have considered your letter of the 10th Merch regarding His Majesty's Gevernment's policy in Palestine at the present time: I cannot accept your contention that the action of our Administration there is at variance with the declared readiness of His Majesty's Government to accept the judgment of the United Nations. In his final statement before the vote in the Palestine Committee of the General Assembly on the 26th November 1947, our representative ovacount declared that any resolution adopted by the Assembly would be loyally accepted by His Majesty's Government in so far as its terms did not conflict with the conditions laid down in the Colonial Secretary's speech of the 26th September and subsequent statements by the United. Kingdom Delegation. It will be recalled that amongst these conditions we stated. that, so long as the Mandate continued to exist, His Majesty's Government must insist on undivided control of the country and that progressive transfer of power to a Commission of the United Nations could only take place after the end of the /Manda te

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Mandate and during that period while we were in contracting military occupation of parts ef Palestine. Subject to that condition we are prepared to place no obstacle in the way of the implementation of the United Nations A MARTER LOS CALLED TO CONTRACT OF plan.

You refer to the entry of armed Arab bands acress the frontiers of Palestine. I would remind you of the topography of these land frontiers. For continual supervision of every possible point of entry by day, and night a much larger force would be required than is available to our authorities, even if it were not at the same time centimally involved in operations against Jewish and Arab terrorists and law-breakers within Palestine. Within their resources, however, which are considerable, all pessible steps are taken by the British forces to prevent such incursions. Certain bridges over the Jordan to which you refer have been obstructed and the security forces are so disposed as to be able to match all main routes into Palestine. In the north, in particular, our forces have engaged several bands attempting to attack Jewish settlements and have replused them and forced them to withdraw across the frontiers. You also refer to reports that Fawzi Kawukji has

/established

established his headquarters in the hills of Samaria. Any attempt to locate and arrest him in that terrain and in the conditions new prevailing in Palestine would involve a substantial military operation. You know of the difficulties experienced by the security forces in the past to locate and arrest leaders of the Jewish terrerist groups and there is no reason to suppose that operations against their Arab counterparts would be any less difficult.

You mention reports communicated to the United Nations Commission that Arabs have assumed a degree of administrative v control in certain areas in Palestine. This statement appears to have led to a general belief that the control of the Mandatory Government ever the Samaria District has ceased. This is not the case. The District Commissioner at Nablus is still in command of his District and his headquarters and sub-district offices are and sub-district functioning normally. Mestinian members of the Police Force continue to perform their normal duties throughout the District under the supervision and control of British police officers and forces are available to deal with any attacks on the civil community. The administrative control being exercised by Arab invaders is confined to their own adherents and is apparently designed to prevent undisciplined acts of lawlessness in

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their areas of concentration.

Where it has been established
that bands of Arab invaders have been
permitted to assemble in neighbouring states
and cross the frontiers of Palestine we have
addressed vigorous protests to the states
concerned. Protests by His Majesty's
representatives have been lodged in Amman
and Damascus and they have urged the Arab
Governments concerned to use their best
endeavours to prevent similar infiltrations.

With regard to the supply of military material to the Arab States by His Majesty's Government, Ministers have on several occasions made it clear that such supplies have been limited to those which we are required by treaty obligations to provide to the Governments of Transjordan, Iraq and Egypt. Our treaties of alliance with these countries provide for close co-operation in mutual defence and these Governments rely on British supplies for the maintenance of their armed forces in a condition of readiness to meet any threat which may develop to their internal security or their frontiers. We have no reason to suppose that the small and infrequent supply of arms to the regular forces . of the states concerned have been or are likely to be put to improper use in Palestine. We have made it clear that we shall have to reconsider our commitments if it should appear that any of the material so supplied is being diverted to Palestine.

/You

You suggest that the Jewish Haganah should be "legalized" and allowed to acquire arms as a preliminary to the establishment of a Jewish militia under the United Nations Plan. His Majesty's Government have made it abundantly clear that until the Mandate is terminated they are not prepared to share with any other authority their responsibility for law and order. They therefore cannot see their way to recognition of this independent and purely Jewish force. Further, in view of the inevitable Arab reaction, such a stepwould be bound to increase the security difficulties in the period before the termination of the Mandate. As regards the supply of arms, in which, during the period of the Mandatory Regime, the Haganah has never appeared to be lacking, His Majesty's Government do not regard it as conducive to peace in Palestine to permit the stores of offensive arms in the possession of either community to be increased, and therefore to the best of our ability during the remaining period of Mandatory control we propose to continue to enforce an impartial embargo on the acquisition of arms by both communities.

On the other hand it is not our policy to remove from either community those arms which may be legitimately regarded as necessary for their defence on our departure. Only those arms which have been, or are clearly likely to be, /used

used for offensive purposes are confiscated. You refer particularly to the case of the settlement of Kfar Etzion. The reason why convoys to that settlement, which have to be escerted by the security forces through an Arab area, are now carefully searched is that some time ago an unexpected check on one of these convoys, which were intended for the supply of foodstuffs, revealed that 95% of the materials were warlike stores, and 7 members of the Haganah were lying on the floor secreted hidden in one of the lorries.

His Majesty's Government do not feel disposed therefore either to urge upon our authorities in Palestine any modification of the measures which they are at present taking, or to give any instructions to those authorities to permit the arming of a Jewish force in Palestine, not susceptible to the control of the Palestine Government, before the termination of the Mandate.

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the control of the state of the

· Maria Angara (東京 angara) (Angara) · Angara Angara (Angara) (Angara

18th Hereb, 1948,

You cent me with your letter of the 11th March, a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister had President of the Board of Depution of the Board of Depution of the Board of

March to Mohorto at the Poreign Office, exclusing a suggested dears reply approved by My Segretary

Poreign Office and the Ministry of Descript of Chout Section 1 years of the Ministry of Descript of Chout Section 1 years of the Ministry of Section 1 the Ministry of Section 1 the Prince 1 this last the Pr

dwart, the auggestion put to you by the Seems of Populies that the correspondence might be published, about which you informed me by tolophene.

Roberts and to Wood at the Ministry of Defence.

(Sgd.) N.D. WATSON.

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18th March, 1948.

Dear Satem.

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Nounciber and him.

Yours simerely,

RICHARD F. WOOD

M.S. Marie, Rep.

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10 Downing Street,
Whitehall
Sith March, 1948

I have considered your letter of the lith March regarding like Earlesty's Covernment's policy in Palestine at the present time. I cannot secept your contention that the estion of our Acaimistration there is at variance with the declared remainsess of His Majesty's Covernment to accept the judgment of the limited matters. In his final statement before the vote in the Falestine Committee of the Coneral issembly on the 20th Hovember, 1947, our representative declared that any resolution adopted by the insembly would be loyally accepted by His Wajesty's Coverement in so for on its terms did not conflict with the conditions laid down in the Colombi Secretary's speech of the 20th September and subsequent statements by the United Eingdom Colegation. It will be recalled that amongst those conditions we stated that, so long as the Mandate continued to exist 168 extet, lits is jesty's Government must insist on andivided control of the country and that progressive transfer of power to a commission of the butter "atlans could only toke place ofter the one of the Musicate and curing the ensuing period when we would be greatedly elthireston our troops, area by area, from Palestine. Subject to that condition we are prepared to place no obstacle in the my of the implementation of the limited letions plan-

You refer to the entry of armed and bends earned the frontiers of relesting. I would remind you of the topography of these Land Postlars, For continual supervictor of every possible pulet of order by day end night a much larger force would be required than is available to our authorities, even is it were not et the some time continually involved in operations spainst devian and arch terrorists and law-breakers within Falestine. Within their resources, however, which are considerable, all possible steps are taken by the British forces to provent such incursions. Cartain bridges over the Jordan to which you refer

DAYS

Danie Deven Charles and Line security forces are an Clayboard on to be sale to ratch all main routes into DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE have exceed several bands others the stage destrot das sout leasinger even has subsansitutes and torced them to withdraw marons the frontiers. You also refer to reports that ?mail ! mail ! has established Mis heedquarters in the hills of Semaria. stituted to least and arrest him in that transfer in the conditions now providing in Falcatine would involve a substantial stillary operation. The know of the difficulties separatement by the suspector forces in the part to locate and arrest lenders of the Jewish terrorist groups and there is no reason to suppose that operations against their areb counterparts would be any less difficult.

You meetica reports communicated to the United Sations Commission that Araba have assumed a degree of administrative control in cortain areas in Palastine. This statement appears to have led to a general belief that the control of the EanGalony

COVERENCE ...

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Latti Nervilone ...

Covernment over the Sameria District has common. This is not the case. The District Consissioner at Mables is still in command of his District and his benignesters and sub-district offices are functioning normally. Palestinian numbers of the Police Force continue to perform their normal daties throughout the Matrict under the supervision and control of Smillsh police officess and forces are available to deal with any attacks on the civil community. The administrative control being exercised by Arab inveders is contined to their own adherents and is apparently designed to prevent undisciplined acts of lawlessees in their areas of consentration.

There it has been paralitied that bands of Arab invaders have been paralitied to assemble in nelphbouring states and cross the frontiers of Falestins we have addressed vigorous protests to the States concerned. Frotests by His Sajesty's representatives have been ladged in American and Democrac and they have arged the Arab Covernments concerned to use their best endemocrac to prevent similar

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are my market by sensitive to their some there are Indicated for the surply of the latest that the control of the We at the minutes were multiple street, and T maken of the Stands were Lying in the Clay Marchal in one of the lawful.

CHARTON OF THE LANGE THE WE WILLIAM TO relation may notified be of the measures when that we do present failing or to give my Indications to these satisfaction to result the

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(Spol) C. R. Applies

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At we welt prize to give of L.M.C.A lattach a revised draff (titlem) manus de la constantina della To distribute the second secon is the second of th The state of the s A was a differ

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[This telegram is of particular secrety and Mould be retained by the authorised recipient and more passed on

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAURO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 90
D. 6. 33 p.m., 15th March, 1948.
T5th March, 1948. R. 8. 50 p.m., 15th March, 1948.

Repeated to Bagdad

THE TATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 90 of March 15th repeated for information to Bagdad.

Your telegram No. 206 (Clayton's movements).

I have made arrangements to visit Bahrein myself from March 21st to March 25th (see my telegram No. 86 of March 10th) and proceed thence to Bagdad via Koweit. I should of course be only too happy to meet Clayton in Bahrein. The only possible objection that I can see is that the Persian Government might possibly regard the double visit as a demonstration regarding the sovereignty of Bahrein against which they would think it necessary to react. See my telegram No. 18 to Tehran. I should be reluctant to postpone my own tour on account of Arab league meeting which may conceivably be postponed. I think it could be adequately covered in any case by Maitland with the Embassy's assistance.

2. As regards the suggestion that Clayton should also visit Adea you are of course aware of continual disposition of Egyptian Press to attribute sinister motives to His Majesty's Government in connextion with Yemen imbroglio. If Clayton goes to Adea at present juncture, his visit will no doubt be represented as confirming their worst suspicions and the whole Middle East press filled with tendencious reports of his activities, Arab League may also be tempted to start paying embarcassing attention to Adea affairs. For these reasons I should think it wises for Clayton to postpose a visit to Adea till the situation has settled down. Ambassador agrees.

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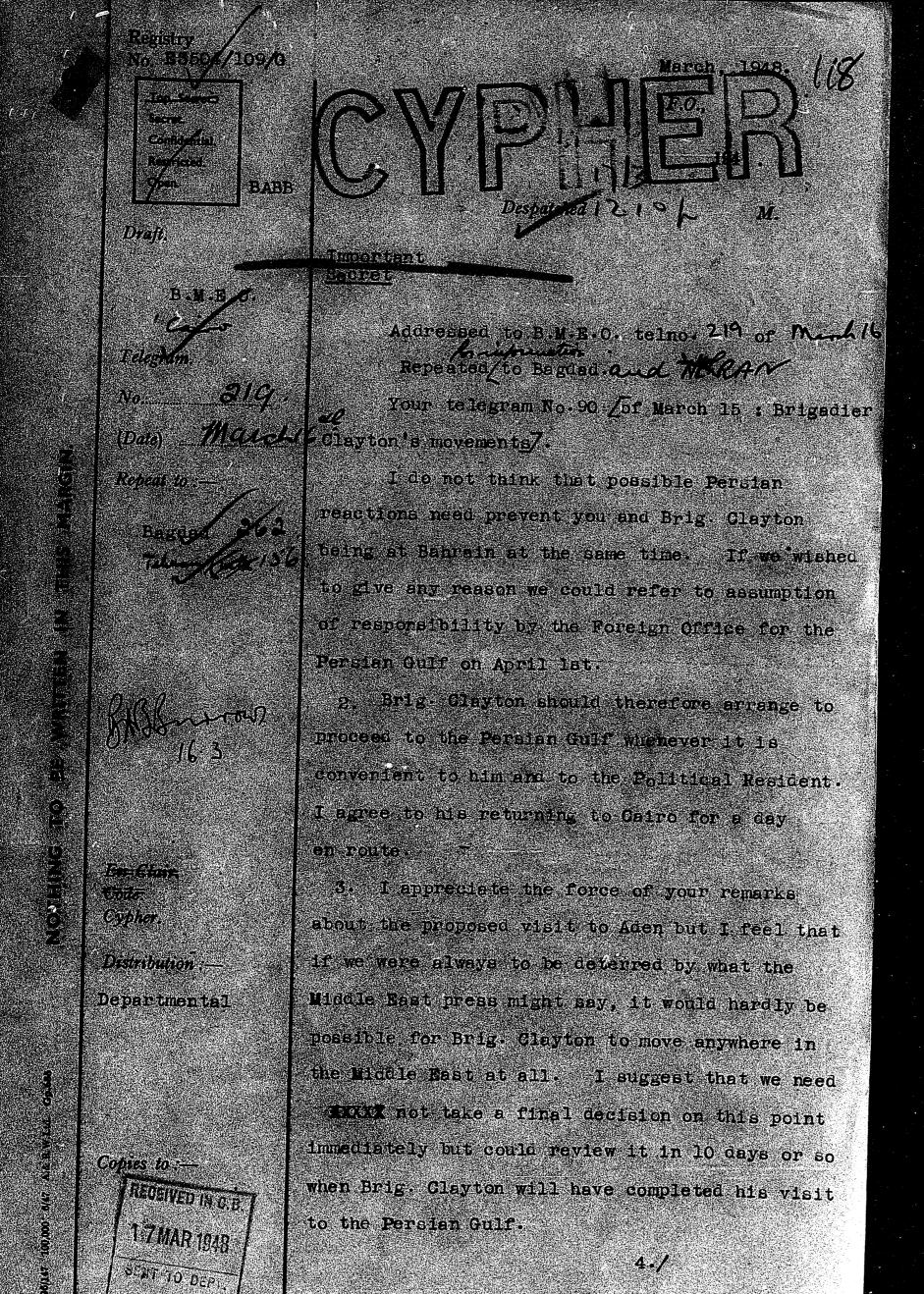
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4. As regards the questions to be examined by Brig. Clayton in the Persian Gulf, you will no doubt yourself be considering there the manner in which the B.W.E.O. can best extend its activitles to the area. You and Brig. Clayton could usefully discuss with the Political Resident the question of British Advisers for some of the shatkhooms about which we have just written to Hay: Brig. Clayton might enquire particularly into the political situation in the more important shalkhdoms, possible growth of Arab mationalist feeling, attempts made by the Arab League to extend their influence and any response from the local inhabitants - Re could also exemine extent and possible growth of Inn Saud's inthease in the Gulf, the reactions of the local pepphation to oll development and the question whether it is possible or desirable to do any more than his being done at present to interest any of the shalkha or the inhabitants in world affairs. He would, of course, also be at liberty to examine any other questions which he considered to be of interest. It would be desirable for Brigadier Clayton to visit as many of the territories as possible including Muscat if conditions permit.

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[This telegram is of particular scorecy and should be research and not passed on [9]

Cyphus/OFF E3502/109/6 Stores

DEPARTHEMENTAL DESPRESSION

PROM POREIGN OFFICE TO BRITISH MIDDLE BASIC OFFICE CAIRO

No. 219 1611 Histol, 1948.

D. 12.10 p.m. 17th March, 1948,

Repeated to Bagdad No. 262 Televan No. 156

NO. 20 THE ROLL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF THE PER

Movements]. Your telegram No. 90 [of March 15th: Brigadier Clayton's

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political situation in the more important shalkhdoms, possible growth of Arab nationalist feeling, attempts made by the Arab League to extend their influence and any response from the local inhabitants. He sould also examine the extent and possible growth of Ibn Saud's influence in the Gulf, the reactions of the local population to oil development and the question whether it is possible or desirable to do any more than is being done at present to interest any of the shelkhs or the inhabitants in world affairs, He would, of course, also be at liberty to examine any other questions which he considered to be of interest. It would be desirable for Brigadier Glayton to visit as many of the textitories as possible, including Muscat if conditions permit.

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Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 3505/109/316

PALESTINE

3581

Registry E3581/109/31

"Extracts"

1948

Hebrew Press in Palestine.

Dated

Received in Registry

17th March

Statement by Ben Gurion.

"Extract dated February 9th gives text of statement made by Mr. Ben Gurion, to effect that Jews would raise no objection should the inhabitants of the Arab part of Palestine decide to hoin one of the neighbouring Arab states. Goes on to state that this cannot represent the views of The Zionist Organisation. Further "Extract" dated 10th February, says statement made by Mr. Ben Gurion cannot commit either the Zionist movement, or the Palestine Jews or the Jewish Labour movement.

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References.

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(How disposed of.)

D.B.epm

These pur comments, from his Palestinian Hohow papers, any interest.

It appears that per. Ben Jusion has said pushaps with the aim of inwringing King Abdullah that the fews would raise no objection if the inhabitants of the Arab parts of Palestine decided

to he meaged into a neighbouring Arab country. Haboker, a right-wing and extremely nationalist

(but not Revisionist) paper, commented that: "even the defeatists in the Zionist movement ... admit that

the And part of Palestine too is part of Energy General! Exactly the same line is taken of a proper on

the sports wing of the Zionist movement - Harrishman

the organ of Harhamer Haljair, on of the parties in the pro-Soviet coalition. This paper says that the

annexation of the Asat posts to Transjordan would

mean "the demolition, the bridge that would

under possible the restration of the country's integrity

£26513 F.O.P.

(Minutes.)

(Index. (Action completed.)

in future": This paper also uses the argument that the expansion of Transger dan would mean British bases in "western Polestine", which "would be a permanent threat to our neutrality and security".

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with a militia for the implementation of: the U.N. decision. International force or Jewish militia — it is obvious that our demands must be clear and coordinated, leaving not the slightest doubt about their meaning. (Haboker, ed.)

BEN GURION'S GENEROSITY

While negotiations are proceeding in London between Britain and Trans-Jordan, which no doubt cover also the Palestine problem, the Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive has made a statement in which he revealed utter indifference towards the plan to annex the Arab part of Palestine to Abudllah's Kinglom. Most certainly, the Zionist movement has not authorised Mr. Ben Gurion to make this statement which has given no expression to the national and political interests of the Jewish nation.

Any change in the UNO plan for the solution of the Palestine problem would constitute a grave danger to the whole plan. Very powerful factors question it and are striving to undermine the judgment of that supreme international organization. It is the duty of Zionist policy to keep the UNO plan imtact and struggle for its implementation without any "amendments". One change might be followed by others and lead ultimately to the disruption of the whole plan. The annexation of the territory of Arab state to Trans-Jordan would mean not only the abolition of the advantages contained in the economic unity of the country for our economic development but also the cutting off of the only link connecting the three parts of partitioned Palestine, and the demolition of the bridge which would render possible the restoration of the country's integrity in future.

Long and artifical frontiers are to separate the two states. It follows that the territory allotted for the Jewish state an only be preserved if the common framework for the three political bodies which are about to be established, i.e. the Jewish and Arab states and the international zone of Jerusalem, is left untouched. But if this common framework is disturbed by the annexation to Trans-Jordan of the Arab part of Palestine the quesion of frontier adjustments will probably be raised.

Also, it is well known that the Trans-Jordan is freely used for the establishment of British war bases. Should the Arab part of Palestine be annexed to the 6863

February 10, 1948

territory of Trans-Jordan, the British would have the opporunity to set up bases also in Western Palestine, that is, in the proximity of our frontiers. These bases would be a permanent threat to our neutrality and security. They might have the effect of destroying our political independence.

The statement made by Mr. Ben Gurion cannot commit either the Zionist movement, or the Palestine Jews or the Jewish Labour Movement.

(Al Hamishmar, ed.)

UNITED FRONT

Agreement among all the Jewish fighting forces is the earnest desire of every Jew here and elsewhere. Nothing/could encourage the Yishuy in its struggle as nuch as the news that an understanding has at long last been achieved among the Jewish fighting forces. In this regard there are no differences of opinion, excepting the doctrinarians of the leftist parties who become confused due to their hostility to their political rivals.

In order to meet the sincere wish of the masses, negotiations have been continuing for weeks but so far without substantial results, since the party which dominates the Yishuv and the Zionist organization does not want such an agreement. Above all it fears that it would lose its rule for which it is ready to prevent a step which is bound to have a decisive beneficial influence on the prospects of our. struggle.

It is playing a double game: on the one hand, in order to gratify its members and the masses longing for unity, it is continuing the negotiations, whispering that the agreement is on the way; however, it actually hampers such an agree-

ment! Meanwhile situation is steadily deteriorating. There is still no united front which under one supreme command should beat our enemies and bring freedom to our homeland. (Hamashkif, ed.)

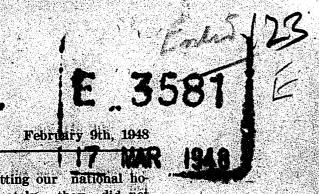
ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

There are three problems on the agenda of the Arab League session: Palestine, North Africa and Libya. On the face of it these problems concern the Arab population, but actually they constitute a scheme of blackmail.

The North African countries are not

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acted in a way befleting our national honour. But unfortunately, they did not do that.

Therefore, we deem it necessary to refer on the "document" of the Foreign Office and the A.H.E. There is no doubt that all the "facts" mentioned there are but lies and distortions. However, it is not enough to deny the lies contained in this Anglo-Husseini document, for the old anti-Communist banner of Hitler and Goebbels has now been raised again.

The Jewish people recall that it was with the aid of the drums of anti-Communism that Hitler tried to cover up the murder of six million Jews in Europe. Auti-Communism was made use of by Hitler as a camouflage to conceal his/ preparations for the second world war. Hitler used to describe as a Communist any person desiring peace and opposed to Fascist dictatorship.

At present Anti-Communism is again en vogue with Bevin, Truman and the like. And any person fighting against a new world conflagration and for national independence, is called a Communist by Bevin, Truman and those obeying their orders.

The apologizing declarations made recently by Shertok/and Locker serve only as additional weapons against us in the world campaign/launched against the Yishuv. It is, findeed, surprising that Shertok and Locker did not say expressly that Bevin and the Chairman of the A.H.E. have no right to interfere with the political views of the Ma'apilim. The reply of the Jewish Agency to the Anglo-Husseini document should have been simple. The Jewish Agency leaders should have told the British Foreign Office and the /A.H.E. that it is not for them to bother about the political views of the refugees and the line of policy followed by the various parties in Palestine. This is a domestic affair of the Yishuv and the Jewish state which is to be established. Anyhow, it is not for Bevin or for the well-known personality" who collaborated with Hitler to determine these (Kol Ha'am, ed.) matters.

BEN GURION'S GENEROSITY

Mr. Ben Gurion, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, is well known for his many "slips of the tongue" by reason of which the public has been left with the impression that there is no consistency in his statements. From time to time he

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February, 9th, 1948

surprises us with his political improvisa-

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7 MAR 1947

At a press conference last week he told foreign correspondents that the Jews would raise no objection should the inhabitants of the Arab part of Palestine decide to join one of the neighbouring Arab countries, such as Syria or Trans-Jordan. What actually did Mr. Gurion mean? Who is going to decide, and how? There have never been general elections, among the Arabs. Or did he perhaps refer to the A.H.E., that institution the members of which were never elected, either?

We maintain that even the defeatists in the Zionist movement also admit that the Arab part of Palestine too is part of Eretz Israel, And when the Jewish Agency Executive agreed to the dissection of our country we believe that it didso not because it was prepared to add to the vast and empty areas of the neighbouring countries another large stretch. The UNO decision on Palestine speaks of the establishment of two states within Pales: time, and those nations that voted in favour of the decison have expressly excluded the idea of annexing the Arab part of Palestine to one of the neighbouring Arab countries. Was it really necessary that this suggestion should come just from the Zionist movement?

We should like to know whether the decision to agree that the other part of our country be annexed to the territory of any Arab state, was adopted at a plenary meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive and whether this is the policy of the Ziopist Organization, or that Mr. Ben Gurion has again taken the liberty to express a private view?

Without referring at all to the principle of partition, we regard the generosity of Mr. Ben Gurion towards the Arab countries at the present hour as a very serious builder. To approach now the enemy, that knows no mercy and openly declares that he desires to extermine us, with a suggestion to give him a substantial part of Palestine amounts to an act devoid of any political wisdom and national self-respect and it is certainly absolutely useless.

We should like to know the view of the Jewish Agency Executive in this matter. Has Mr. Ben Gurion expressed the view of the supreme representative body of the Zionist Organization?

(Hamashkif, ed.)

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1948

PALESTINE

Registry | E3609/109/31

FROM D. M. Boam JIBUTI

No. 9 Confidential Dated

Received 25th Feb in Registry 17th Mar

Escaped Jewish Terrorists,

Refers Foreign Office despatch No, 30 (E6379/32/31)

Reports that YUSSUF MECHA has applied for the issue of a new passport, his old one being so full of visas and endorsements that no further space is available. Mr. Boam has verified that this is correct, Therefore in accordance with instructions now refers this application for the issue of a new passport, and requests instructions.

Last Paper.

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References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of)

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Next Paper.

23652

(Minutes.)

Mr Boam does not say how Ynsing mecha his behaved since Cast thy. I what action he recommends

Much point in refusing a pasiport now unless husing continues to act in a manner unforom also to Brit interests.

? instruct Mr Boam to usine the pasiport and take the opportunity to give a serious warning to sehaviour

and

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and mak official dropphasure
at his part activity.

Consular Dept.

Party Dept.

Transporte orpice

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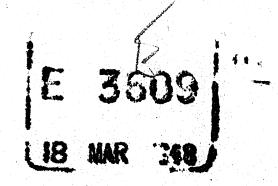
CONFIDENTIAL

No. 9 L

(S. 9/48)

British Consulate, JIBUTI,

25th February 1948.



Sir,

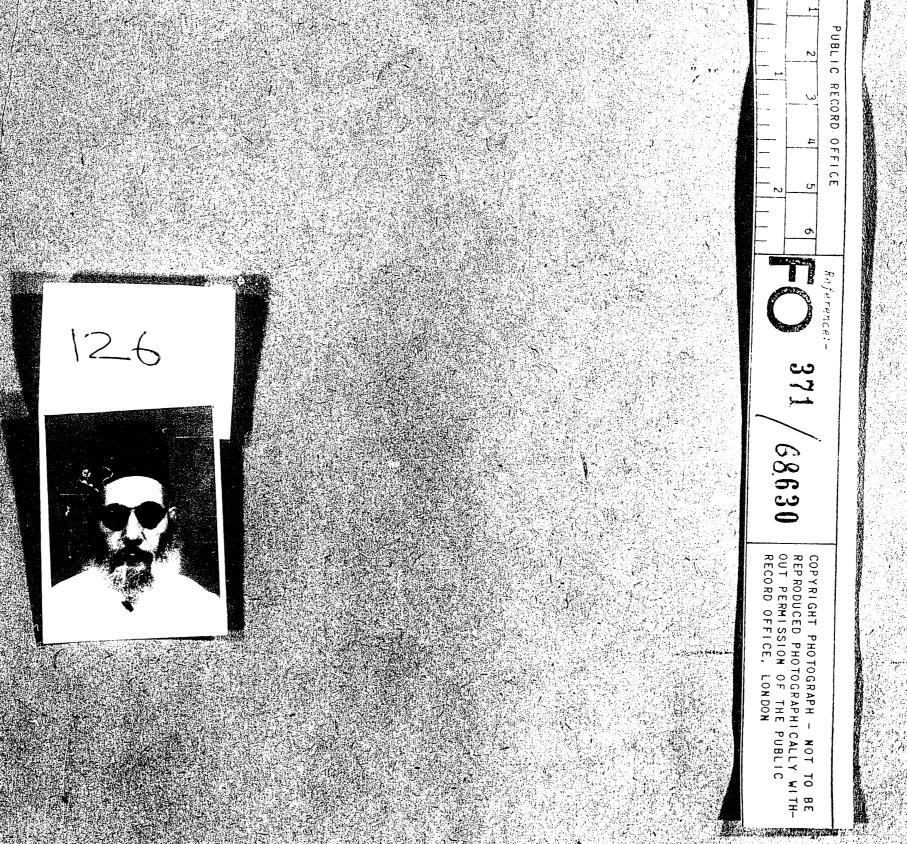
I have the honour to invite your reference to the instructions contained in the second paragraph of Foreign Office despatch No. 30 (E 6379/32/31) of 20th August 1947 regarding the two escaped Jewish terrorists in JIBUTI and to report that YUSSUF MECHA has applied to me for the issue of a new passport, his old passport (NO. C. 136386 issued at JIBUTI on 4th September 1944) being so full of visas and endorsements that no further space is available. I have examined the passport and verified this to be the case.

In these circumstances and in accordance with the instructions referred to above, I have the honour to refer this application for the issue of a new passport in favour of YUSSUF MECHA and to request your instructions.

> I have the honour to be, With the highest respect, Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant,

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Foreign Office, LONDON S.W. 1.

PUBLIC RECORD. OFFICE 371 68630



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is reserved for		ould be in the Applicant's own handwriting. (15
ioial use.	 Surname only in Block Ca (a) Insert date and town where staying when filling in the form. 	(In the case of children under the age of 16 years requiring a separate Passport, the Declaration must be made by the child's parent or guardian in a form (C. 2) provided for the purpose.)	Description of Applica
The state of the s	(b) Christian names and surname of the applicant in full. (Surname in Bioox Capitals.)	(a) Difilienti 24. Februar 1948.	Profession Gal.DS.
	(e) In the case of a Winow, Marking Wolfan or one whose marriage is dissolved, the par-	*I, the Undersigned (b)	Place of birthA.DE
	ticulars of status and birth required at (d) are those of her Lars, Present, or Former Husband, not of the applicant	at present residing at	Usual place of residence.
	herself. (d) State exact national status, e.g.	widow late hysband was the wife of and that my hysband is	Heightfeet
	a British aubject by birth or a British subject by naturalisation, British-protected person, &c. In the case of a British	former wife former husband was a (d) BRILISH SUPPECT BY BIRTH having been born	Colour of eyes B.R.O Colour of hair. G.R.E.
	BUBLECT BY NATURALISATION THE CERTIFICATE OF NATURALISATION MUST BE FURNISHED.	at ADEV on the day of 1875	I A TOTOLO ATDATUR ATOTTUR III
	(e) Wife and children should only be included if they do not	For Persons Born Asroad, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases.)	Whether married, single
Marian Company	possess separate Passports. Strike out the words in brackets in other cases.	my (his) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at	Maiden name of woman v
	 (f) Strike out and initial whichever (g) is not applicable. Note:—All previous Pass- 	and not having lost the status of British subject thus acquired, I hereby apply for a Passport for	BLOCK CAPITALS) If name has been change
	ports must be accounted for. (h) Signature of applicant. The applicant must also write	travelling to. Adu Colony, Grilly Somali land, Cheopia, I French	
A Company of the Comp	a specimen of his signature on the slip attached below marked **.	travelling to. Aller Colony, Gritish Somali land, Checopaia, + French for the purpose of Recedence - travell	
Confessor Confes	(I) Name and qualification of person verifying the declaration, who should himself be a British	(e) [accompanied by my wife-(and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports].	must be written here. Signature of
	subject, viz:— British Official, Resident British Merchant, Banker,	(f) I declare that I have not previously been granted any Passport whatever, and that I have made no other application for Passport.	applicant
	Minister of Religion, Barrister- at-Law, Solicitor, Physician, Surgeon, or other responsible	X(g) I declare that all previous Passports granted to me have been surrendered for cancellation to a British Passport or Consular Officer, other than Passport No. 136386; which is now	Description of wife included on
	British subject, giving pro- fessional or business address. Recommendations from mem- bers or officials of Banking	attached for cancellation, and that I have made no other application for a Passport since the attached Passport was issued to me.	Name in full
188	Firms should bear the printed stamp of the Bank here below.	(h) Signed	Age
		of, a British subject, hereby declare that to the best of my	Place of birth
		personal knowledge and belief the above-made declaration and description of the said Mrs.	Date of birthfeet
	CAUTION. † The attention of persons who	Miga (/ //	Colour of eyes
	are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact	Acchaare true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of him her vouch him her as a fit and proper person to receive a British Passport. I have known the applicant for 20 years.	Colour of hair Visible distinguishing ma
	that it can only be signed from personal knowledge of the appli-	Signed!	
	cant and not from information	PHOTOGRAPHS: Two small unmounted duplicate photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be sent, one of which should be certified and signed on the back by the guarantor, as follows: "I certify that this photograph is	Maiden name(in BLOOK CAPITALS).

them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations prove to be untrue, the consequences to them may be serious.

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MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.1	Description of Applicant.
niring a separate Passport, the Declaration must be made by the a form (C.2) provided for the purpose.)	Age 7.3
uti 24 Februar 1948.	Profession Galacs MiTH
= MECHA	Place of birthAJEN
hereby declare that I am	Usual place of residence
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BIRTH having been born	Colour of hair G. R.E. /
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th nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born ons. (To be struck out in other cases.)	Whether married, single or marriage dissolved
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on theday of	BLOCK CAPITALS)
ject thus acquired, I hereby apply for a Passport for	If name has been changed by Deed Poll or otherwis
y Somali land Albertaia, + French	the original name must be stated here
travell	If there has been no change of name the word "None
under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do	must be written here
granted any Passport whatever, and that I have made	Signature of 3233 7019 applicant
nted to me have been surrendered for cancellation to er, other than Passport No. 136386, which is now have made no other application for a Passport since the	Description of wife of Applicant, if to be included on the Passport. Name in full
7220 MAI*	
(h) Signed	AgeProfession
(h) Signed	Place of birth
, a British subject, hereby declare that to the best of my	Date of birth
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	Colour of eyes
from my personal knowledge of him ber wouch her as a fit	Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities
port. I have known the applicant for 20years.	
Signed †	Maiden name(in Blook Capitals)
ck by the guarantor, as follows: "I certify that this photograph is	Signature of wife of applicant
ORTANT, Child and the	age of 16 if to be included on this Passport.
Children under the Christian Names. Surna	ME. PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH. SEX

ontained in their respective prove to be untrue, the to them may be serious.

Registry No. E3609 Top Secret Confidential.

JG SB

Draft. despatch

H.M. Consul, H=M==Consulate; Jibuti.

first

Sir,

I have received your despatch No.9 of February 25 in which you requested instructions regarding the issue of a new passport to Yussuf Mecha.

You do not say in your despatch whether you have had any further cause for complaint in the activities of Yussuf Mecha since you wrote your despatch No.36 of June 28 last.

It would be configure to studied to the configure of the configu to withhold a passport indefinitely from this man on the ground of his past misdeeds. Provided, therefore, you have negturther eause for complaint, you should issue a new passport to Yussur Mecha. Before giving him the passport, however, you should speak seriously to him about his activities in favour of the two terrorists and explain that official facilities of this kind are now dependent on an improvement in his attitude.

It might have a salutory effect if you delayed some time before furnishing Yussuf Mecha with a passport as instructed above.

And Charles and St. W.L.

04

OUT FILE

(Constitution



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RUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 3691/109/31G

E 3796 1948 PALESTINE Visit of H.A. Goodman (Agudas Israel) to New York Registry | **E3796/109/31** Number | Draft to T.E. Bromley, Embassy Washington, informing him that H.A. Goodman the Political Secretary of Agudas Israel in London, is flying to New York to consult his colleagues, and will probably visit Washington. Mr. Goodman asked to inform Mr. Bromley of his arrival as he will probably want to see him. FROM Foreign Office Minute No. Dated Mr. Beeley. Received in Registry 20th March 23rd Fast Caler. (Minutes.) J}b 27/3 37/4 References (Print.) (How disposed of.)
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25 / 3 (Action completed.) Next Paper. 3841 26513 F.O.P.

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OUT FILE E

FOREIGN GFFICE, S.W.1.

20th March, 1948.

E_3798

My dear you,

I understand that Mr. H. A. Condman, to Political Secretary of Agudas Israel in London, is flying to New York this weekend for consultation with the colleagues, and that he will probably visit arrival, and he will probably visit arrival, and he will probably ask to see you.

I have known Goodman quite well for some years. I think you will find him an attractive person, clever, witty and honest. He has never been in any way unhelpful in our dealings with him, and I am sure that the United States (which he is visiting for the first time) will cause him to feel almost excessively British.

(H. Beeley)

T. E. Bromley, Raq., British Embassy. Washington.

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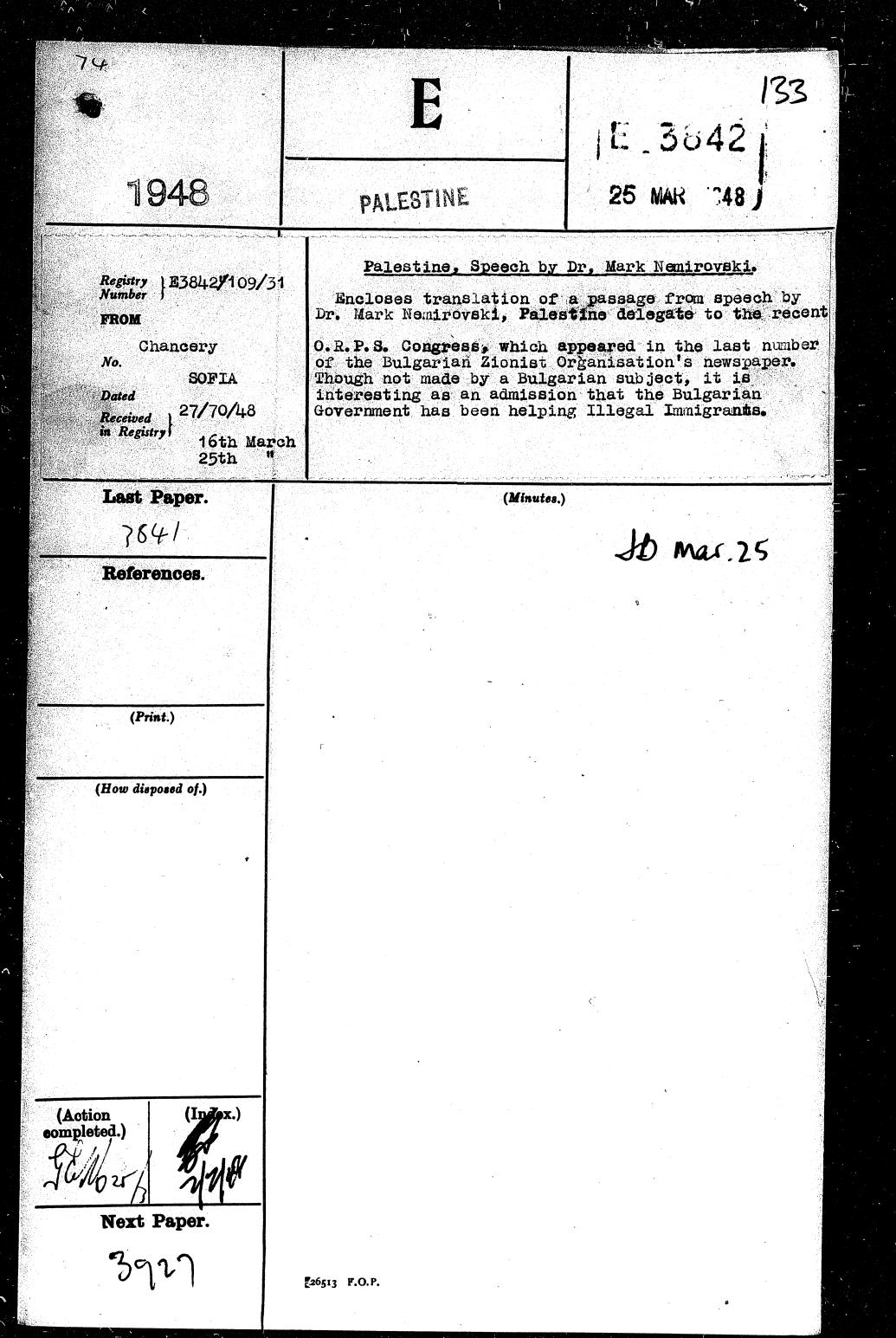
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134

Extract from Speech by Dr. Mark Nemirovski

("Tsionisticheska Tribuna", 6th March, 1948).

With sardonic mirth we heard that the British Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bevin, sent a Note to your Government on account of the sympathy and understanding it has shown in connection with Bulgarian Jews wanting to go to Palestine. Apart from that, Bevin accused your Government of not fulfilling the decision of the United Nations. However, the whole world knows that Britain is not only refusing to carry out her obligations in connection with the Jewish population in Palestine, but is also carrying out sabotage by refusing to open a Jewish port for Jews coming into Palestine.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE Reference:
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BRITISH LEGATION SOFIA

27/70/48

16th March 1948.

Dear Department,

We enclose a translation of a passage from the speech of the Palestinian delegate, Dr. Mark Nemirovski, to the recent O.R.P.S. Congress, which appeared in the last number of the Bulgarian Žionist Organisation's newspaper.

Though not made by a Bulgarian subject, it is interesting as an admission that the Bulgarian Government has been helping illegal immigrants.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY 80

Southern Department, Foreign Office, LONDON. S.W.1.

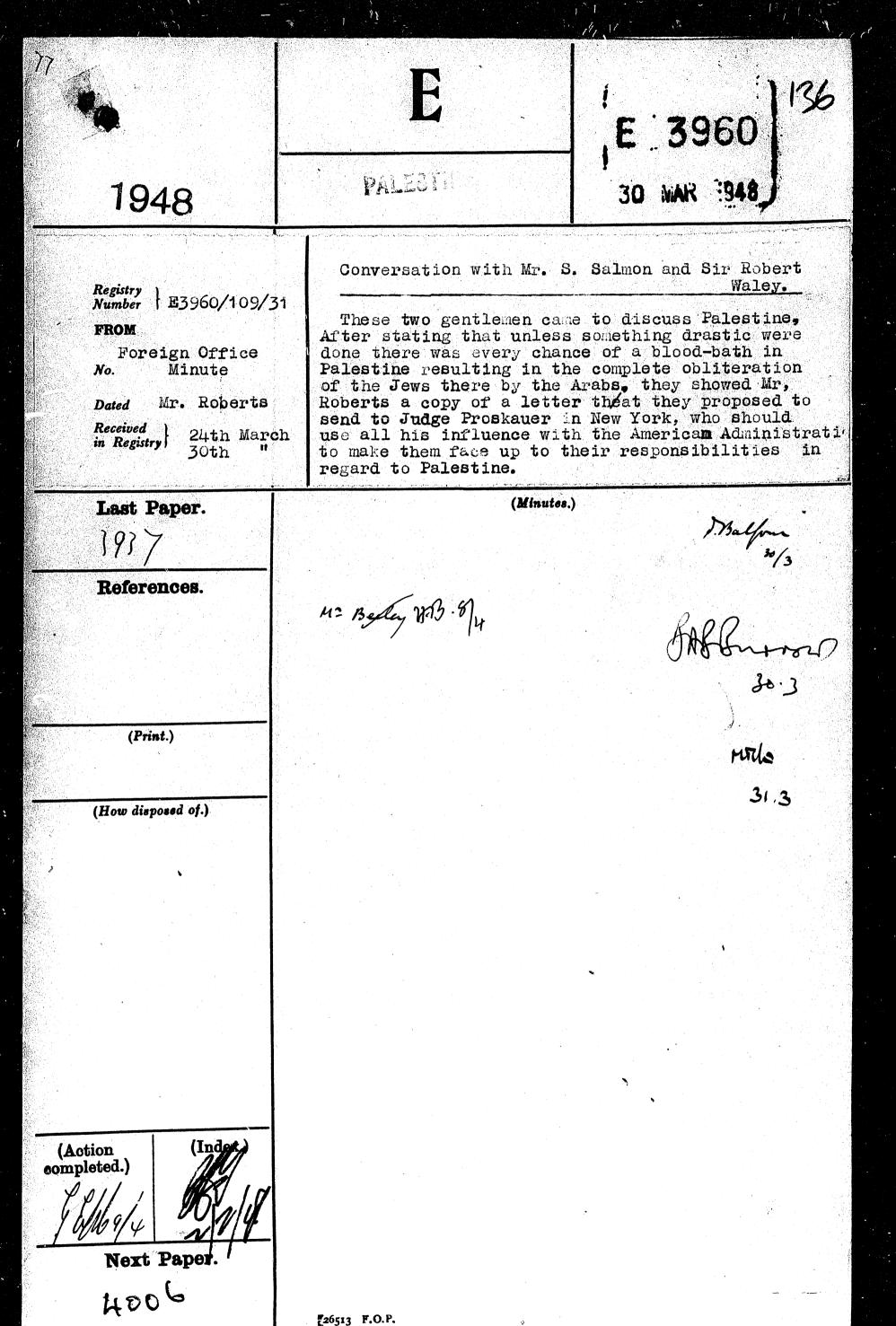
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Following document(s) retained in the Department of origin under Section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 3937/109/316



26513 F.O.P.

E 3960

SECRETARY OF STATE

Coule 135

Arabs,/

I mentioned to you this morning that Mr. S. Salmon and Sir Robert Waley Cohen had asked to see me this afternoon about Palestine. When they arrived they told me that they realised I could not speak to them officially, but in view of the fact that I knew them both personally they would be grateful for any purely private advice I could give them about an approach they proposed to make to Judge Proskauer basis of this approach was that the moderate Jews in London had met recently and had decided that unless something drastic were done there was every chance of a blood-bath in Palestine resulting in the complete obliteration of the Jews there by the They assumed, however, that it was in present circum-Arabs. stances impossible for any individual Jew or Arab to get up and propose a policy which was not 100% in accordance with Zionist or Arab national aspirations.

With this preface, Sir Robert Waley Cohen then showed me the draft of a letter which he proposed to send to Judge Proskauer, who he was confident had great influence with the American Administration. He told me that he had already spoken to Judge Proskauer yesterday on the telephone, and had British feeling in Zionist quarters in America. Sir Robert Waley Cohen's letter opened rather on the lines I have described above, and went on to urge that Judge Proskauer should use all his influence with the American Administration to make them face up to their responsibilities in regard to Palestine. It proposed that the Americans should impose, if necessary by force, a truce from which the Arabs would gain the postponement and probable eventual abandonment of the present partition plan, and the Jews would gain their continued existence in Palestine without massacre. however, in the short run the Jews would lose more than the

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Arabs, they might be compensated by agreement to immediate immigration from the camps in Cyprus. The letter insisted, however, that the Americans must be ready to send troops to Palestine to see such a settlement through and to prevent the Stern Gang under Soviet instigation gaining control or at least further embroiling the Jews and the Arabs. The letter also suggested that anti-British sentiment among American Zionists must be damped down.

The letter, which was one of about five pages, suggested very briefly in two places that if anti-British sentiment among American Zionists was damped down and if the Americans were ready to send troops to Palestine, then the British Government might be ready to play their part.

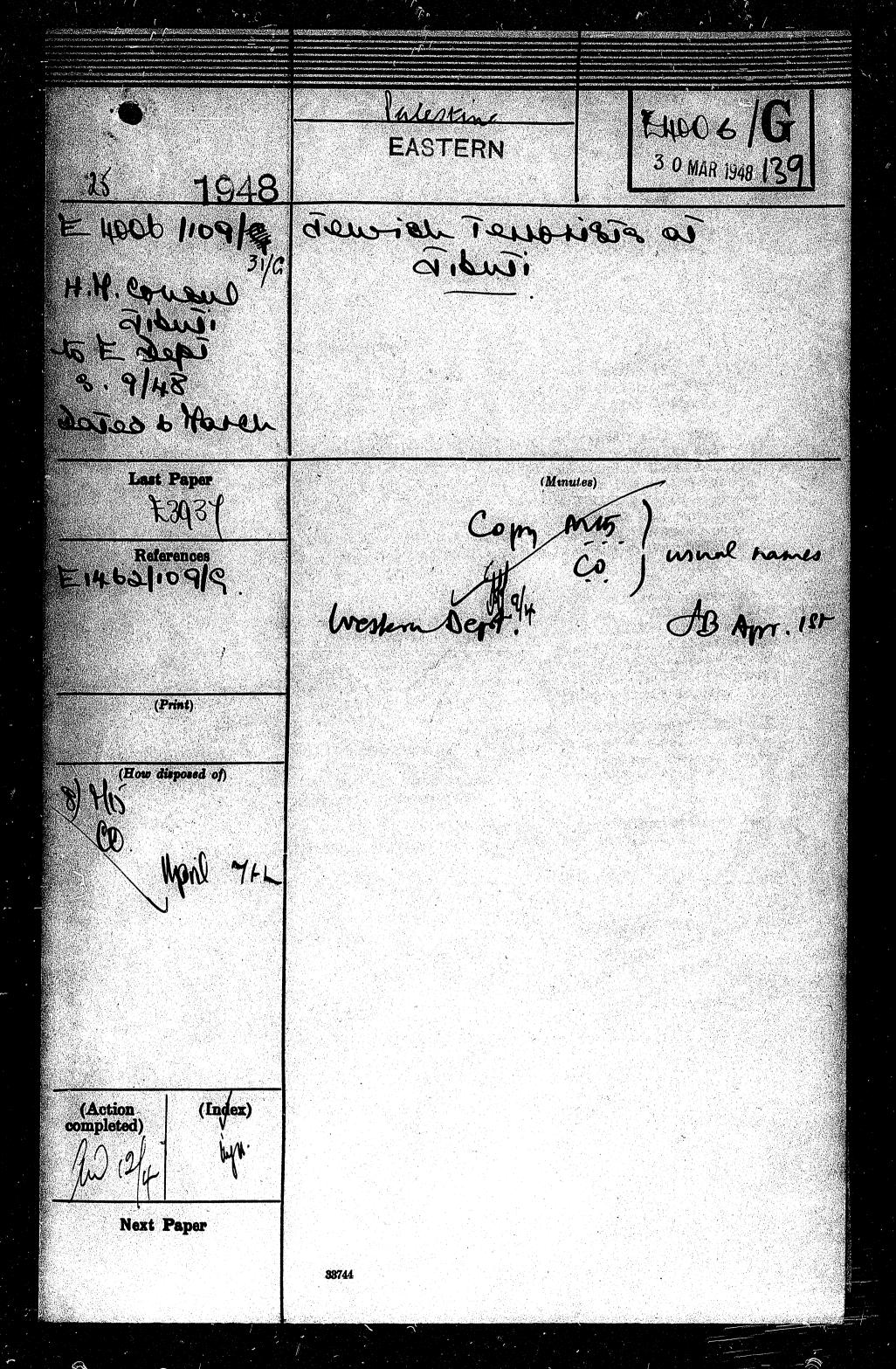
I told my visitors that I was not in a position to give them any official advice, which they quite realised. I said, however, in reply to their specific question as to whether anything in their letter ran contrary to the wishes of the British Government, that I thought

- (a) that anything done as between British Jews and American Jews to bring home to the American Government and people their responsibilities in regard to Palestine was quite all right, provided it week clear that the British Jews alone and not the British Government were responsible for this initiative;
- (b) that since British policy remained as publicly stated, i.e. we were withdrawing from Palestine on May 15th and refused to participate in enforcing any solution unacceptable to Jews or Arabs, it would be rash to give Judge Proskauer the impression that British policy might or might not be favourable to American policy in certain hypothetical circumstances. In this connexion, I drew attention to what you had stated in the Debate yesterday. I had the impression that my visitors would modify their letter in this sense.

24th March, 1948.

371 /

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THE LEGISLA OF THE STATE OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

(S. 9/48)

British Consulate, JIBUTI, 6th March, 1948.

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter (E 1462/109/G) of the 6th ultimo regarding the two Jewish terrorists at JIBUTI (and not ERITREA, as mentioned in your letter).

Following your instructions, I again approached the French Governor (MONSIEUR P.SIRIEX) and explained to him the desirability of keeping these men here until the 1st August (the final date for the withdrawal of our troops in PALESTINE). Monsieur SIRIEX gave me a sympathetic hearing and agreed to detain the men here until 1st August 1948 provided that, in the meantime, he receives no instructions to the contrary from the French Metropolitan Government in PARIS.

I was satisfied that no formal approach was necessary and my discussions with Mr. SIRIEX were, therefore, of an informal nature. Monsieur SIRIEX is proceeding to FRANCE early in April (on two months leave of absence) and has given instructions to the officer who will administer the Government during his absence (MONSIEUR G.LIURETTE, Secretary General) that the men are to be kept here until August.

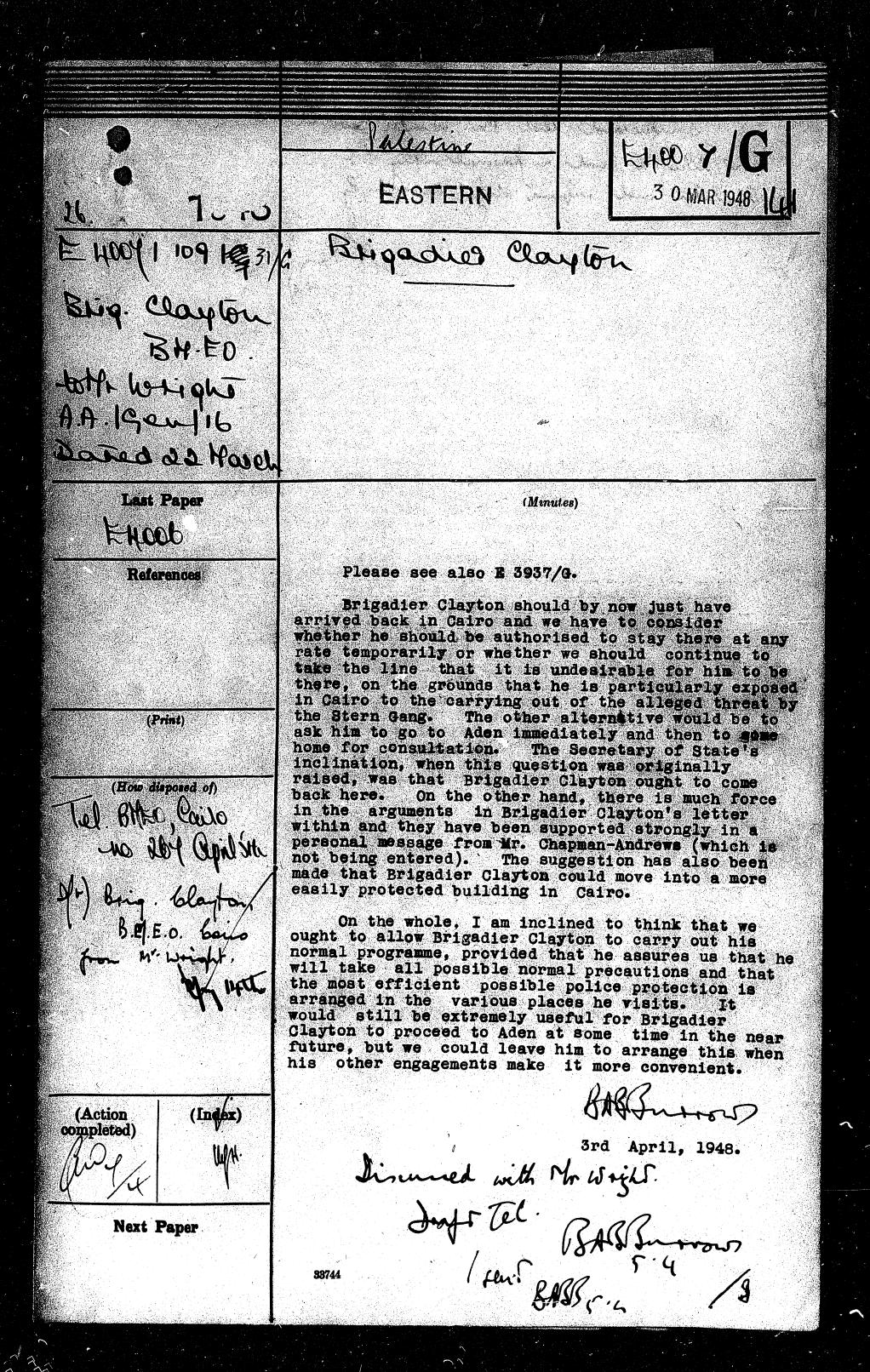
In the meantime, ZABROWSKI and YESERNITSKY, (the two men concerned) keep very much to themselves and do not appear to be in any way active. They are shadowed everywhere and all their movements are reported to the French Governor and to myself.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chancery, British Embassy, PARIS, for information.

Yours ever, us oan H.M. CONSUL

Eastern Department, Foreign Office, LONDON S.W. 1.

68630



PURCIS REGION OFFICE

ADJUGUEST

Junderstand blot Mr. Wright would now like to send a fersmal refly to this letter and submit drops overablingly.



When the Stern Gang's threat to assassinate Brigadier Clayton was considered two months ago, it was decided that Brigadier Clayton should not for the moment return to Cairo, where the danger appeared to be greatest, but should for a few weeks visit more outlying parts of the Arab world. At his own urgent request, Brigadier Clayton was allowed to return to Cairo for the recent meeting of the Council of the Arab League, but is now visiting Aden. Brigadier Clayton has pointed out that he cannot fulfil his duties if he has to spend his time journeying in the remoter parts of the Arab world in order to avoid the threat of assassination and that if the cause of his wanderings became known, it would be damaging to British prestige. He has urged that he should be allowed to resume his ordinary duties, living in Cairo with such extra police protection as may be thought necessary. Mr. Troutbeck has supported this view, while emphasising that, although all possible precautions are being taken, this cannot completely avert the danger.

E4007 - FLAG A

It is for consideration, therefore, whether we should now authorise Mr. Troutbeck to allow Brigadier Clayton to do as he suggests. The only satisfactory alternative would appear to be to recall Brigadier Clayton to this country. While this would ensure his safety, we should then have to find him a successor, who might, in his turn, be threatened by Jewish terrorists.

5th May, 1948.

A half little to Brigadia Cayton is etheral.

Liel Proposition

7.5 MTUS 8.5

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AA/Gen/16

20 MAR 1948

enter G 143

BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE,

10, Sharia Tolumbat, CAIRO.

22nd March, 1948.

PERSONAL.

H- Burrows

I have just returned from Baghdad preparatory to setting out on the next stage of my reluctant and humiliating hegira namely to Bahrain. It is not that I don't want to go there -I had intended to do so soon - but I should not have chosen this moment to be absent from Cairo.

I had a talk with Troutbeck the night before last before he left, and said I would like to put my views to you.

Briefly, I think, as I said in one of my telegrams, it is intolerable that my movements, or those of any other official of H.M.G. should be dictated by the threats of a band of thugs and murderers. Where is to to stop? If they choose to threaten the Ambassador here and Chapman-Andrews are we all to go on tourpermanently?

I fully realise the point of view of those responsible and that it might be thought a grave embarrassment if I were murdered by the Stern Gang, but would it actually be an embarrassment visa-vis the Arab World? If the threat came from extremist parties in an Arab State I can see that it would be, but coming as it does from a known band of Jewish murderers I do not see how it could have any political feactions if they succeeded in their attempt.

If the concern is purely for my personal safety, then, apart from the fact that I am sceptical of the danger, I see no reason why I should be afforded any more protection than are the fundreds of officers and officials in Palestine who have to carry on.

So far the Press, Jew and Arab, have refrained from comment on the rather theatrical precautions taken by the police and on my rapid and mysterious movements but it would not surprise me if they began to write about it. Should they do so I cannot believe it would be anything but bad for our prestige. Azzam, for instance, is just as much threatened as I am but beyond the normal precuations of guards and plain clothes men he takes no notice of it.

I do /

Michael Wright, Esq., C.M.G., Foreign Office, LONDON, S.W. 1. 6863

RECEIVED IN C.B.
2 9 MAIR 1948
SENT TO BOTT.

I do urge therefore, that so far as the F.O. is concerned I be allowed to live my normal life with such protection as the local police authorities with advisable. I am as careful of my own skin think advisable. I am not likely to take unnecessary as anyone else and am not likely to take unnecessary risks but I do find this secret flight from place to place humiliating to a degree.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Chapman-Andrews.

1. h. Chyton.

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Registry No. B 4007/8109/C TOP SECRET **Apr. 13**. Telegram. 267 Following personal for Troutbeck from Wright. I have received a personal letter from Repeat to:-Clayton of March 22nd giving his view; of the alleged threats from Stern Gang to assassinate You be doubt know that he feels very strongly that these threats should not be allowed to prevent his staying in Cairo or moving about the Middle East in normal course of duty. 2. Our provisional view on careful con-TO BE sideration is that there is considerable force in Clayton's argument and that, provided he assures us that he will take all possible normal precautions and that the most efficient -Codo:-Cypher. possible police protection is arranged wherever Distribution :he is, we should agree that he should carry out his normal/programme. Precautions in Cairo **Files** might include living in house or flat which would be particularly easy to protect. 3. Please telegraph your views. 4. Even if we agree that Clayton should Copies to: stay in Cairo for the time being, it would swill be extremely useful for him to go to Aden in the fairly near future and we should be glad if a visit there could be arranged at his convenience and that of the Governor. If

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this/

this is arranged, we would send a separate telegram onthe questions which we should particularly like Clayton to study. I presume we shall be receiving from you or Clayton, or both, in due course report on your visit to the Persian Gulf.

MUL 5.4

68630

This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on

Cypher/OTP.

E. 4007/109/G. Top Secret. FILES Gum

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO.

No. 267.

5th April, 1948.

D. 12.25 p.m. 6th April, 1948.

TOP SECRET.

Fellowing personal for Troutbeck from Wright.

I have received a personal letter from Clayton of March 22nd giving his views on the alleged threats from Stern Gang to assassinate him. You no doubt know that he feels very strongly that these threats should not be allowed to prevent his staying in Cairo or moving about the Middle Rast in normal course of duty.

- 2. Our provisional view on careful consideration is that there is considerable force in Clayton's argument and that, provided he assures us that he will take all possible normal precautions and that the most efficient possible police protection is arranged wherever he is, we should agree that he should carry out his normal programme. Precautions in Cairo might include living in house or flat which would be particularly easy to protect.
 - 5. Please telegraph your views.
- 4. Even if we agree that Clayton should stay in Cairo for the time being, it would still be extremely useful for him to go to Aden in the fairly near future and we should be glad if a visit there could be arranged at his convenience and that of the Governor. If this is arranged, we would send a separate telegram on the questions which we should particularly like Clayton to study. I presume we shall be receiving from you or Clayton, or both, in due course report on your visit to the Persian Gulf.

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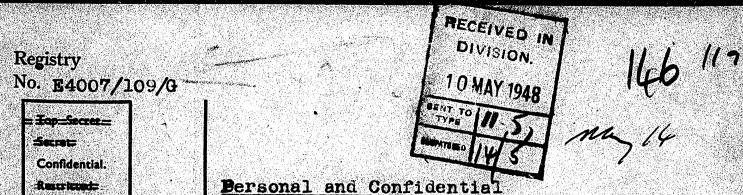
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Brig. Clayton, B.M.E.O., Cairo.

JEC

from

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Draft.

Mr. Wright

Molonos 7.5

I am sorry not to have replied before to your letter No.AA/Gen/16 of the 22nd March about the threats against your life by Jewish terrorist organisations, but, as you will doubtless have seen from my telegram to Troutbeck No.267 and his reply No.1 10 have not neglected this question. 2. Tully sympathise with you in the embarrassment caused/you by the precuations we have imposed on you and I quite agree that you cannot be made to wander forever from one outlying part of the Arab world to another. I was accordingly relieved to see from Troutbeck's telegram No.116 and from his letter of the 10th April that it had been possible to tighten up the existing arrangements for your protection sufficiently to enable you to remain in your flat in Cairo. I am sure you appreciate the need for these measures, however irksome they may be, and the recent murder of Captain Farran's brother has brutal that our anxiety was not without foundatio. I hope, therefore, that you will not relax your precautions against these dangers.

> mus., 8.5

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(E 4007/109/G) GOWEYED ENTETAT AND 24:510 MAT.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1. 14th May, 1948.

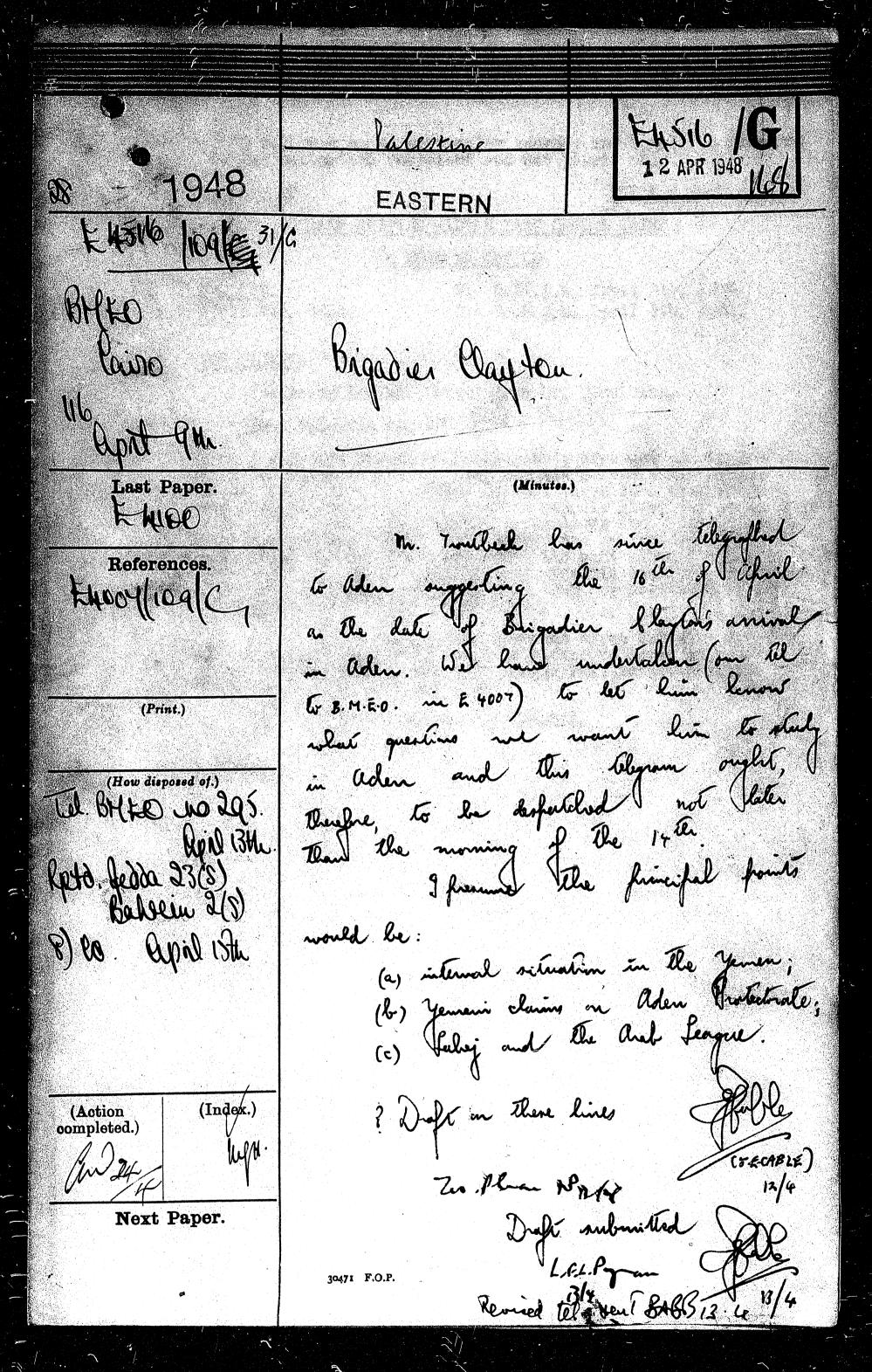
I am sorry not to have replied before to your letter No.AA/Gen/16 of the 22nd March about the threats against your life by Jewish terrorist organisations, but, as you will doubtless have seen from my telegram to Troutbeck No. 267 and his reply No. 116 we have not neglected this question.

We must fully sympathise with you in the embarrassment caused to you by the precautions we have imposed on you and we quite agree that you cannot be made to wander forever from one outlying part of the Arab world to another. I was accordingly relieved to see from Troutbeak's telegrem No. 116 and from his letter of the 10th April that it had been possible to tighten up the existing arrangements for your protection sufficiently to enable you to remain in your flat in Cairo. I am sure you appreciate the need for these measures, however irksome they may be, and the recent murder of Captain Parran's brother has brutally proved that our anxiety was not without foundation. I hope, therefore, that you will not relax your precentions against these dangers.

Brigadier I. N. Clayton, British Middle East Office, Cairo.

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Cypher/OTP

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FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO

TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 116.
April 9th, 1948.

D: 8.17.p.m. April 9th, 1948. R: 9.50.p.m. April 9th, 1948.

TOP SECRET.

Following for Mr. Wright from Mr. Troutbeck.

Your telegram No. 267. FRE CHICE

I also was impressed by Clayton's argument and would not wish to object to his carrying out his normal programme but of course it must be understood that there is a risk which no precautions can obviate. Clayton readily gives the assurance that he will take all possible precautions and I do not think that the present police arrangements can be improved. I am consulting security officers about the best place for him to live in but we assume that if they urge his leaving his present flat His Majesty's Government will bear any necessary expense arising from the breach of contract.

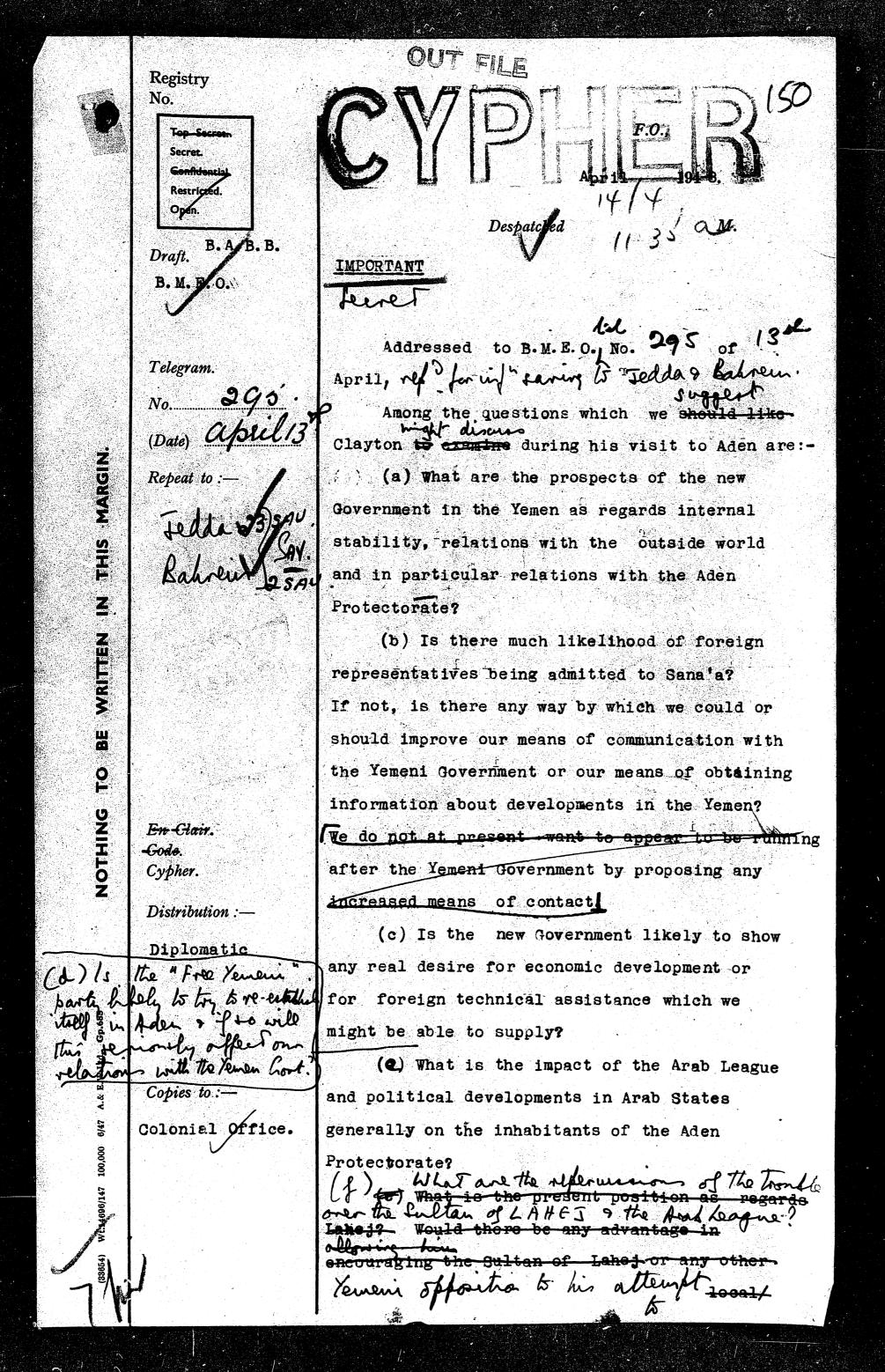
2. I am consulting the Governor about suitable date for his visiting Aden but it would be better to leave it until after next meeting of the Arab League Political Committee which is to open on April 10th.

[Copy sent to Mr. Wright].

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to assent his independence tempts one to allowing him & possible other local suntar estrations a greater degree apparent independence in The hope so me to form a natural barrier against expansionist moves from the Yement. Or if we have he were le more likely that if adopted such a policy, should we merely find that sooner or later such territories were absorbed into the Yemen and our frontier thereby pushed further back? ()(f) Is there any practical difficulty arising from the non-demarcation of the frontier between the Aden Protectorate with either Saudi Arabia or Muscat? (g) Is there any scope for closer contact or exchange of information between the British authorities in Aden and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, or is the situation satisfactory in this respect? (h) Is there any scope for increased contact and exchange of information between British authorities in Aden and the French authorities 2. Clayton will no dontt make it clear when discussing such forward funely as a basis for of suggesting that present cont arrangements are in any way moatifortoy.

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Cypher/OTP Searet.

DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BRITISH

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO

NO. 295. April 13th, 1948. D. 11.35.a.m. April 14th, 1948.

Repeated to Jedda No. 23 Saving. Bahrein No. 2 Saving.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Addressed to British Middle East Office Cairo telegram
No. 20 of 5th April, repeated for information saving to
Jedds and Babrein.

Among the questions which we suggest Clayton might discuss during his visit to Aden are:-

- (a) What are the prospects of the new Government in the Yemen as regards internal stability, relations with the outside world and in particular relations with the Aden Protectorate?
- (b) Is there much likelihood of foreign representatives being admitted to Sana's? If not, is there any way by which we could or should improve our means of communication with the Yemeni Government or our means of obtaining information about developments in the Yemen?
- (c) Is the new Government likely to show any real desire for economic development or for foreign technical assistance which we might be able to supply?
- (d) Is the "Free Yemeni" party likely to try to re-establish itself in Aden and if so will this seriously affect our relations with the Yemen Government?
- (e) What is the impact of the Arab League and political developments in Arab States generally on the inhabitants of the Aden Protectorate?
- (f) What are the repercussions of the trouble over the Sultan of Lahej and the Arab League? Yemeni opposition to his attempt to assert his independence tempts one to speculate whether there might be some advantage in allowing him and

/possibly other local

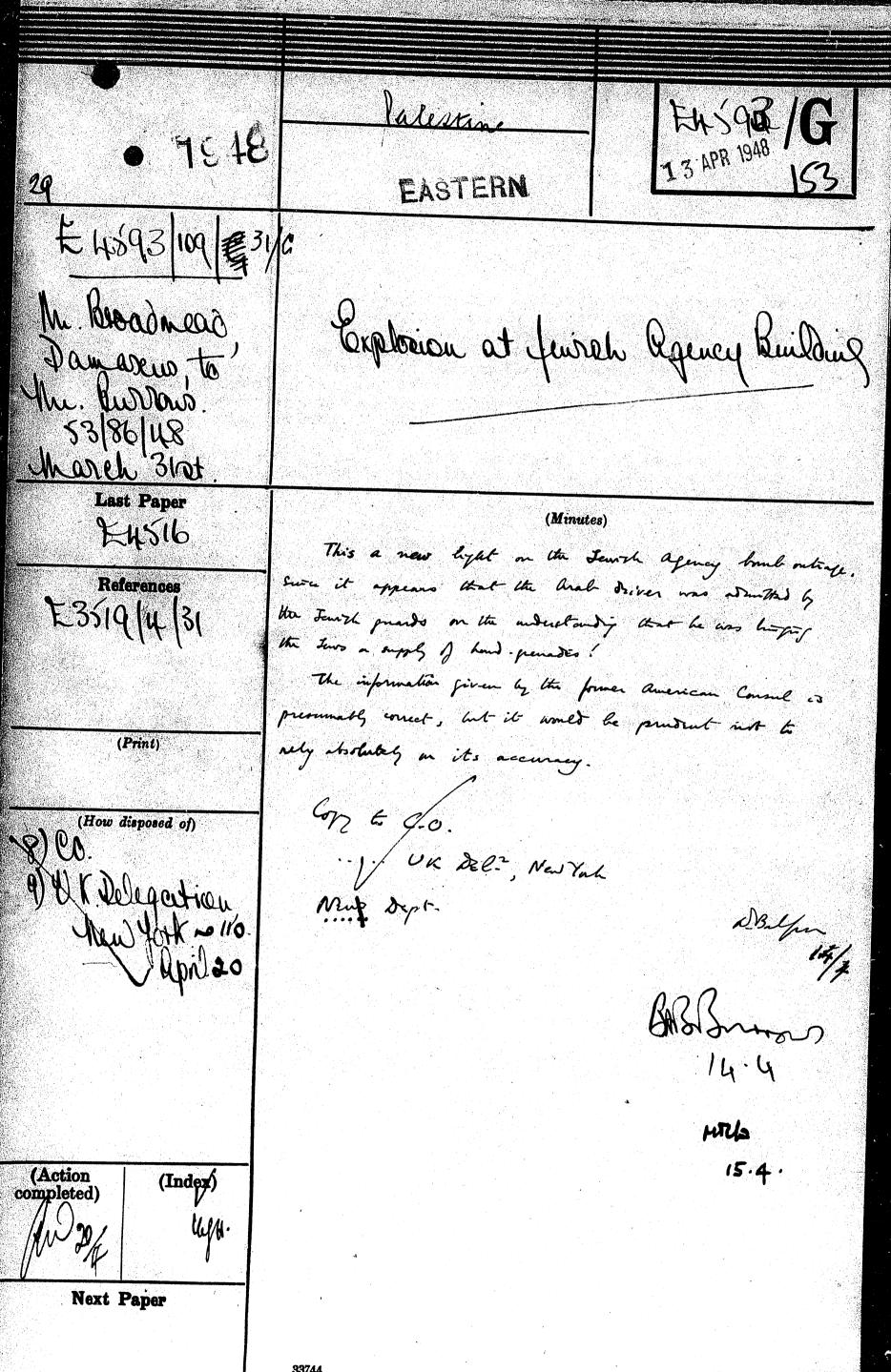
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possibly other local rulers in similar situations a greater degree of apparent independence in the hope that they would then of their own accord form a natural barrier against expansionist moves from the Yemen. It may however be more likely that if we adopted such a policy we should merely find that sooner or later such territories were absorbed into the Yemen and our frontier was thereby pushed further back?

- (g) Is there any practical difficulty arising from the non-demarcation of the frontier between the Aden Protectorate with either Saudi Arabia or Muscat?
- (h) Is there any scope for closer contact or exchange of information between the British authorities in Aden and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, or is the situation satisfactory in this respect?
- (1) Is there any scope for increased contact and exchange of information between British authorities in Aden and the French authorities in Jibuti?
- 2. Clayton will no doubt make it clear when discussing such questions that we are putting them forward purely as a basis for discussion and not with any idea of suggesting that present arrangements are in any way unsatisfactory.

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British Legation,
DAMASCUS.

END

(53/86/48) SECRET.

31st March, 1948.

KN59A

Dear Burrows.

I notice that in the supplementary report about the explosion at the Jewish Agency building on the 11th March sent by Fletcher-Cooke to the Principal Secretary to the United Nations Commission on Palestine, P(NY)46 of the 13th March, various details are given about the American Consular car which was said to have been carrying the explosive. Porter, the American Consul in Jerusalem at the time, stayed with Dundas a few days ago on his way to take up his new post in Cyprus and gave him privately the following account.

Antoune David, a Christian Arab from Bogota, was engaged as a driver at the American Consulate a year ago. One of his jobs was to collect each morning from the barrier outside the Jewish Zone the Jewish typists employed at the U.S. Consulate. He became friendly with them and later was allowed by the Jewish Guards to pass the road block and pick up the girls from inside. Over a period of months he came to do odd jobs for the Jews in particular supplying them with eggs and fruit from the Arab markets, which the Jews otherwise found great difficulty in obtaining. He began to boast that he could get anything the Jews wanted for them, even arms, and was eventually entrusted with one hundred pounds Palestinian by the Security Guards of the Jewish Agency to purchase grenades from Arab sources.

At this stage he went to Abdul Quader Husseini and told him the position. Two hundred and fifty pounds of ammanol was made up into two packages with grenades on top and placed in the boot of the American Consulate car with a time bomb in the middle. David drove the car into the Jewish area and was allowed to pass inside the Agency; (he would not have been allowed to do this unless an arrangement had been made with the Security Guards before-hand). He parked the car inside, left the keys with the Security Guards, and said he would be back in a quarter of an hour. The explosion occurred a few minutes later.

Immediately afterwards a senior official of the Jewish Agency called on Porter to protest against the misuse of the American Consulate car, which had caused the explosion. Porter said he would make enquiries and an hour or two later visited the Jewish Agency with a list of written questions to which he required answers. First of these questions was why the American Consulate car had been allowed inside the Jewish Agency without search, all cars normally being searched even if a Foreign Consular Official is inside. From that time on no further reference was made by the Agency to the misuse of the American Consular car, either directly or indirectly, and this aspect of the matter was eliminated from the Palestine Post and Hebrew Press. Porter's explanation is that at first the Security section of the Agency and the Political section had not been in contact, but the latter, as soon as they discovered officials of the Jewish Agency had been trying to abuse consular privilege, realised that they had better keep quiet.

Antoune David is now believed to be in Syria.

Jun mi cen Plu Thordmead

B.A.B.Burrows, Esq., Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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